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No. 6.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1889–1890.

(In continuation of Colonial Report No. 103, Old Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
April 1891.

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No. 6.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

[In continuation of Colonial Report No. 103, Old Series.]

Sir H. W. NORMAN (Queensland) to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Brisbane,
November 12, 1890.

MY LORD,

I DO myself the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, six printed copies of a Despatch, dated the 15th October 1890, from his Honour Sir William MacGregor, submitting the annual report of British New Guinea for the year which ended on the 30th June last.

2. I received the Despatch on the 3rd instant, and at once forwarded it to the Chief Secretary of Queensland for such observations as he might desire to offer on behalf of the Government of this Colony. I enclose copy of a reply from Sir Samuel Griffith dated the 8th instant.

3. I cordially concur with the remarks of the Chief Secretary with respect to the extent and value of the labours of Sir William MacGregor, and I join in his regret that the health of Sir William should have suffered, and agree that the work of the Administrator in preparing vocabularies of some of the native dialects is very useful. I trust that the expectation of Sir Samuel Griffith may be realised, that before the expiration of the period for which the cost of the administration is guaranteed the Possession will be self-supporting, but I am not sanguine that the anticipation of the Chief Secretary that there will be some increase in the revenue during the present year will prove correct.

Legislation.

4. All the Ordinances enumerated in the Report as having been passed during the year have already come under your Lordship's observation, and no remark from me is now needed with respect to them.

Administration of Justice.

5. The work of the Courts has been light, but it is to be borne in mind that as yet our influence does not extend over extensive areas or enable all crime that takes place in British New Guinea to be dealt with by our tribunals.

Tours of Inspection.

6. The account of administrative visits of inspection given in paragraphs 18 to 31 of the Report is interesting, but separate reports of all the more important tours, as given in Appendices A. to N., have already been forwarded separately to your Lordship.

7. No observations seem called for on my part with respect to the heads "Government Property" and "Establishment," except to express my regret that there are still many cases of fever among the officers and employés of the Government, and that a valued native who was in charge of a district should have died of it. It appears that the death of Mr. George Hunter, Government Agent in the Rigo District, which was at first attributed to an attack of fever, was really due to foul play, and the murderers have been arrested and sentenced to death. In the death of Mr. Hunter the public service in British New Guinea has lost a valuable officer.

Trade.

8. The value of the imports into the Possession shows a considerable increase over the previous year, close upon 5,000*l.*, mainly in food stuffs, building materials, and miscellaneous articles. The return of exports is no doubt defective, especially as respects gold, but on the whole there is an increase of more than 500*l.*

Mission Work.

9. The mission of the London Society has as usual been working with zeal and some success, and the Roman Catholic Mission has been also doing good work under various difficulties and discouragements. It is gratifying to know that work is being commenced by the Church of England and the Wesleyan Church, and that they are able to take up spheres of labour that will in no way interfere with the ground occupied by the two missions first mentioned.

Land.

10. Notwithstanding the extensive tours of inspection accomplished by the Administrator up to the present time the area of land discovered suitable for European settlement seems very limited. It is to be hoped that more may hereafter be found, and the Ordinances passed with respect to land will, if suitable areas are available, enable the Administrator to encourage European enterprise without infringing upon the just rights of the natives. Until some European settlement takes place it is almost

hopeless to expect that trade will be so developed as to make the Possession self-supporting.

Revenue and Finance.

11. It will be seen that there is a small increase in the revenue due to Customs receipts, and that the total receipts from all other sources this year only reach the insignificant amount of 122*l.* As the Customs receipts are almost entirely obtained from the Government officials, who are certainly not overpaid, from the missionaries, and from the gold-seekers, who earn a very precarious livelihood, it cannot be deemed satisfactory that almost the whole revenue is obtained in this manner, and even this source is uncertain, for a falling off in the number of gold-seekers will, it is expected, lead to a smaller revenue in the present year than in the last. The expenditure is of course much larger this year than it was last year, for in 1888–89 there were only 10 months of expenditure to provide for. The outlay it will be seen was just within the amount contributed by New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland, and 642*l.* 14*s.* in addition was expended on exploration purposes out of a sum at credit of the late Protectorate account, which has been allowed by the contributing Colonies to be expended in this manner by the Administrator.

12. I have already drawn your Lordship's attention to the heavy cost of maintenance of the steamer "Merrie England" as compared with the resources of the Possession, or with any resources that are likely to be available for many years to come, and notwithstanding the increase of the grant by the Imperial Government from 3,500*l.* to 5,000*l.* a year it would have been impossible to maintain the vessel if the contributing Colonies had not liberally allowed 2,000*l.* a year more to be spent out of the revenue. Your Lordship will observe that Sir W. MacGregor expresses his hope in paragraph 50 that the unexpended balance on the steamer purchase account should be made available for the purchase of a vessel or vessels suitable permanently for the use of the Administrator in the western part of the Possession. Sir William MacGregor has not as yet made any definite proposal in this matter, but any additional vessels would no doubt lead to additional expenditure, which on account of the "Merrie England" and other vessels and boats now amounts to about 9,564*l.* a year.

Native Dialects.

13. The work performed in the preparation of vocabularies has already been referred to in the second paragraph of this Despatch, and while to Sir William MacGregor it must be attributed to a great extent that difficulties have been overcome in this matter, great credit is due to those gentlemen who are named in paragraphs 54 to 57 of the Report.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Scientific Results.

14. The scientific results during the year, if not very extensive, are interesting and valuable.

General.

15. Your Lordship will no doubt appreciate the good work performed by the various officers of the Government who are named in paragraphs 59 and 60, and I feel that I ought to remind your Lordship that this work is performed in a very unhealthy climate, with great difficulty in procuring nourishing and agreeable diet, and where there is a great absence of civilised society or of means of recreation.

16. The great assistance always willingly rendered by the Ministers and officers of Queensland has been repeatedly brought to your Lordship's notice, and is always heartily acknowledged by Sir William MacGregor.

17. Your Lordship will be pleased to learn from the sixty-first paragraph of the Report that some little progress has been made in increasing the authority of some of the leading men among the tribes and in putting on them some responsibility towards the Government, and we may hope that a policy of this kind will be steadily developed and encouraged.

18. I think that after perusing this report your Lordship will agree with me in thinking that satisfactory progress has been made in the administration of the Possession during the year, and that we may look forward to still more satisfactory results if the health of the Administrator admits of his continuing his valuable labours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

The Right Hon.
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
November 8, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt from your Excellency of the annual Report of the Administrator of British New Guinea for the year ending on 30th June last, which I have read with great interest, and which I beg to return herewith.

I do not offer any observations upon the various Ordinances referred to in the Report, with the provisions of which I have not had time to make myself fully acquainted.

The previous reputation of Sir W. MacGregor had caused somewhat large expectations to be formed as to the work which he would be able to accomplish in British New Guinea, but I do

not hesitate to express the opinion that the extent of his multifarious labours during the year, as described in the Report, is even more than could have been reasonably expected by anyone.

I regret very much that Sir William MacGregor's health has been affected by the fever contracted in the prosecution of his visits of inspection, which have, however, already resulted in the recognition of British influence over a large area of the Possession and in laying the foundation of the establishment of such civilisation as is at present practicable or useful amongst the Papuans.

I anticipate some increase in the revenue of the Possession during the present year from various sources, and am disposed to think that there are already reasons for believing that before the expiration of the period of 10 years during which the cost of the administration is guaranteed by New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland the Possession will be self-supporting.

The labours of Sir William MacGregor in respect of the collection and reduction to writing of some of the native dialects appear to be very valuable, and I look forward to the accomplishment of much more work of the same kind, and of an equally valuable nature, if British New Guinea is fortunate enough to retain his services for two or three years longer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH.

His Excellency
Sir Henry W. Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.I.E.,
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

ANNUAL REPORT on BRITISH NEW GUINEA from 1st July 1889 to 30th June 1890, with APPENDICES.

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* For Appendices A. to N. inclusive *see* [C. 6328] *passim*.
† *See* pp. 294–297 of [C.—5883], August 1889.

SIR, Brisbane, October 15, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to present the Annual Report required by Paragraph XXXVI. of the Royal Instructions. This Report is for the year ending on the 30th June 1890. The order of arrangement of the different matters dealt with herein, is as nearly as practicable, the same as that followed in last year's Report.

Legislation.

2. Eleven Ordinances were considered and passed by the Legislative Council during the year. The first of these, marked in the series of the laws of the Possession as Ordinance No. IV. of 1889, appropriates 15,000*l.* to the services of the Administration for the year. Of this sum 3,300*l.* is for the Civil List, which is reserved to Her Majesty by the Letters Patent; 2,725*l.* for other salaries, 2,350*l.* for boats and vessels, and 6,625*l.* for miscellaneous charges.

3. Ordinance No. V. of 1889 provides for the regulation of prisons. Buildings and premises to be used as prisons are proclaimed as such by the Administrator in Council by proclamation in the "Government Gazette." By a like formality any prison may be closed. Any specified area round a prison may be made a penal district by proclamation, inside of which prisoners can be dealt with as if in prison. The Chief Magistrate and all Resident Magistrates are, and Justices of the Peace may be appointed to be, Visiting Justices. The duties of prison officers, the classification of prisoners, the treatment of prisoners, and punishment for prison offences are regulated by Prison Rules, which form part of the Ordinance.

4. Ordinance No. VI. of 1889 was passed to adopt certain laws as Laws of British New Guinea. By Ordinance No. IV. of 1888 all Laws, Acts, and Statutes then in force in Queensland were adopted as the Laws and Ordinances of British New Guinea as far as the same were applicable and not repugnant to the constitution of the Possession. Certain classes of Acts were, however, specifically exempted. This system left it often difficult—sometimes impossible—to determine whether a given law was in force in the Possession or not. Ordinance No. VI. of 1889 specifies in schedule form, set out by number and title, the Acts and Statutes of Queensland that are adopted as Ordinances of British New Guinea. It also defines to what extent the Acts, Statutes, and Laws of England are adopted as the Laws of the Possession.

5. Ordinance No. VII. of 1889 appropriated the sum of 2,452*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* to the service of the year ending 30th June 1889. Of this sum 1,530*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* was to supplement sums found insufficient under the appropriations of Ordinance No. IV. of 1889, while 921*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* was for services unprovided for in the estimates of expenditure for the year.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

6. Ordinance No. VIII. of 1889 was passed by direction of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to make it more clear than was done by Ordinance No. II. of 1888 that there was nothing in the said Ordinance to prevent the Administrator from acquiring land on behalf of the Crown, to be held as Crown lands.

7. Ordinance No. IX. of 1889 provides for the better regulation of native affairs. Under this measure a Board is constituted, to consist of at least two members of the Legislative Council, besides the Administrator, with other members to be named by him. It is the duty of members of the Board to advise the Administrator, when called upon so to do, on any question relating to the good government or well-being of the native population. The Board makes regulations affecting the native population exclusively, in respect of certain matters specified in the Ordinance, such as the jurisdiction, powers, and procedure of native courts, the observance of native customs, and generally on matters bearing on or affecting the welfare of the native population. Magistrates for native matters may be appointed by the Administrator, and these may be natives or others. The practice, procedure, and jurisdiction of these courts are to be defined by regulations. Native District Courts can be created, to consist of not less than one European magistrate and two magistrates for native matters. The practice, procedure, and jurisdiction of these courts, also an Appellate and Controlling Jurisdiction over Native Magistrates' Courts, are to be defined and specified by regulation. The Administrator in Council can constitute the Central Court an Appellate and Controlling Court over the Native Magistrates Courts and over the Native District Courts. The regulations of the Board require the sanction of the Legislative Council, and are subject to the disallowance of Her Majesty.

8. Ordinance No. X. of 1889 regulates the issue of Crown grants. It enables the Administrator in Council to grant any Crown lands in fee simple. It is left absolutely in the discretion of the same authority to grant or to refuse to grant any land acquired from the native owners prior othe 4th day of September 1888. The form of grant, and any reservations and conditions attached to the same, are determined by the Administrator in Council. All gold and silver in or under the land is reserved to the Crown. No land, unless it is an island, can be granted in fee simple until it has been surveyed by a licensed surveyor. Survey fees are paid by the grantee, and their amount is fixed by the Administrator in Council. Crown grants are issued in duplicate, and the fees payable thereon are fixed by the Ordinance. The recovery of fees by the Crown is provided for by the same law.

9. Ordinance No. XI. of 1889 adopts "The Real Property Act of 1861," and "The Real Property Act of 1877," of Queensland as the Law of the Possession of British New Guinea. All lands in the territory unalienated from the Crown on the 16th November 1889, the date of the passing of the Ordinance, are made

subject to its provisions. To the Registrar-General are deputed the powers of the master of titles, created by the 1861 Act, and notices of process may be served on the same officer so long as there is not an Attorney General or an analogous officer in the Possession.

10. Ordinance No. I. of 1890 provides for an armed constabulary. The number of the force must not exceed that fixed by the Legislative Council from time to time by resolution. Salaries and allowances to members of the force are subject to confirmation by the same Council. The Administrator in Council may make rules and regulations for the government and discipline of the force. These have to be laid before the Legislative Council, and are subject to disallowance by Her Majesty. Members of the force are bound to perform within the Possession all the duties and functions that police officers and constables in the Colony of Queensland are, as such, bound to perform in that Colony. They are also to execute any process and serve any summons or warrant sent to them for that purpose by any Court of the Possession.

The members of the force have, in the discharge of their duty, the protection and indemnities secured to any constable or police officer in Queensland by the law of that Colony. If the numbers of the force are not filled up by voluntary engagement natives of the Possession of sound bodily constitution, between 17 and 40 years of age, and unmarried, are liable to be enrolled. Members of the force are enrolled for not more than three years nor less than one year. The Ordinance deals also with desertion, breaches of discipline, and prescribes how offences are to be tried.

11. Ordinance No. II. of 1890 appropriates on the basis of "The Appropriation Ordinance of 1889" the sum of 3,750*l.*, being supplies for the first quarter of the financial year 1890–91.

12. Ordinance No. III. of 1890 amends "The Small Debts Act of 1867" (Queensland adopted). This law extends the ordinary jurisdiction of the Court from actions involving a sum not exceeding 30*l.* to cases in which the sum sued for does not exceed 50*l.*; and in cases in which the party intending to be sued consents in writing the maximum jurisdiction is raised from 50*l.* to 70*l.* The maximum sum that can be dealt with by the court in cases of disputes between parties is raised from 20*l.* to 30*l.* Court fees and witnesses' expenses are also fixed by the Ordinance. The Court is further given power to have any words or figures spoken or written translated into English, or from English into any other language. It rests with the Court to determine whether any interpretation or translation shall be accepted. The cost of interpretation or translation is borne in the first instance by the person suing.

13. "The Court and Laws Adopting Ordinance of 1888" empowers the Chief Magistrate to make, from time to time, Rules of Court for the conduct of business in the Central Court. These Rules have validity when approved by the Legislative Council,

and when published in the "Government Gazette." A code of Rules in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance "for Regulating Civil Procedure" has been prepared by the Chief Magistrate, and was published in the "Government Gazette" of 23rd November 1889.

14. "The British New Guinea Order in Council of 1888," which provides an appeal in certain civil cases from the Courts of the Possession to the Supreme Court of Queensland, directs that such appeals shall be brought subject to any Rules of Procedure made by that Court. Rules for appeals in civil matters from British New Guinea were accordingly made by the Court and came into operation on the 6th May, and were published in the "Government Gazette" of the Possession on the 28th June 1890.

On the 6th November 1889 the same Court made Rules entitled "The Rules of the Supreme Court (Crown Side—British New Guinea Appeals), 1888." These were published in the "Government Gazette" of the Possession on the 23rd March 1889.

Administration of Justice.

15. An addition of two Courts of Petty Sessions was made to the Judicial Department during the year, so that this branch consists of:—The Central Court, seat at Port Moresby; a Court of Petty Sessions for the Central Division, located at Port Moresby, with a jurisdiction extending over the part of the Possession that lies between the 145th and the 148th degrees of east longitude; a similar Court at the Government Station of Mabadauan, established on the 16th day of November 1889, for the part of the Possession that lies west of the 145th degree of east longitude; a like Court with jurisdiction extending over all the part of the Possession that lies east of the 148th degree of east longitude. This last Court has its head-quarters at Samarai; but an Assistant Resident Magistrate for the division, having his head-quarters at Misima (St. Aignan) was appointed 24th September 1889. This officer is also warden for the Louisiade Gold Field.

16. It will be seen from the tables of cases dealt with by the Central Court that in its criminal jurisdiction 12 sentences of capital punishment were pronounced. The crime in each case was the murder of a native by a native, and in no instance was the sentence carried out. In six of these cases the prisoner had killed a person found stealing in his garden. In three of these instances the victim belonged to the same tribe as the murderer. In one of the six death was caused by strangulation. A man found a native stealing his food, and tied him up against a tree by a cord put round his neck so tightly that strangulation ensued. It is not contrary to Papuan custom to murder the thief under such circumstances, and these murders were committed at a time when food was very scarce. In three of the 12 cases retaliatory murders were committed to revenge or pay for two of the six

murders arising from theft. This was formerly required by the custom of the country. Two cases were for the murder of an illegitimate child. It was, at least, not unusual to destroy such children in former times. One was an intertribal murder, the last, it may be hoped, of a long series of slaughters and massacres between the two neighbouring septs.

17. The most remarkable case that came under the Indictable Offences Jurisdiction of the lower courts was that of a European who accused himself of shooting three natives. After much inquiry, carried out at considerable expense, the determination arrived at was that there was no truth in the allegation. It will be observed that under the Summary Offences Jurisdiction there was one conviction each of supplying arms, explosives, and liquor to natives. The following table of court cases has kindly been prepared by Mr. Winter, Chief Judicial Officer:—

MATTERS DEALT WITH JUDICIALLY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1890.

CENTRAL COURT.

Criminal Business.

Number of Persons Committed for Trial.	District from which committed.	Persons committed—how disposed of.
19	Central District - -	3 committals quashed.
3	Eastern District - -	1 died whilst under committal.
		17 tried.
		1 awaiting trial.
—		
Total - 22		

The Court held Nine Criminal Sessions at the Places and Times, and with the Results under-mentioned:—

No. of Persons tried.	Offence charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		PORT MORESBY—26th July 1889.	
2	Murder - -	- | 1 guilty, 1 acquitted	- | 1 death.
		PORT MORESBY—3rd October 1889.	
2	Murder - -	- | 2 guilty - -	- | 2 death.
		PORT MORESBY—22nd October 1889.	
3	Murder - -	- | 3 guilty - -	- | 3 death.
		PORT MORESBY—16th December 1889.	
1	Murder - -	- | 1 guilty - -	- | 1 death.

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No. of Persons tried.	Offence charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		PORT MORESBY—9th January 1890.	
2	Murder	1 guilty, 1 acquitted	1 death.
		PORT MORESBY—10th February 1890.	
2	Murder	1 guilty murder, 1 guilty manslaughter.	1 death, 1 imprisonment till 6 p.m. day of trial.
		PORT MORESBY—21st March 1890.	
2	Murder	1 guilty murder, 1 guilty manslaughter.	1 death, 1 imprisonment for 3 months, with hard labour.
		PORT MORESBY—25th April 1890.	
1	Murder	1 guilty	1 death.
		PORT MORESBY—30th April 1890.	
2	Murder	1 guilty, 1 acquitted	1 death.
Total 17			

Civil Business.

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings.	Amount involved.	Result.
		£ s. d.	
1	Action for goods sold and money lent.	153 9 3	Settled out of court.
1	Application for administration.	—	Granted.
Total 2			

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Indictable Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of [illegible]
Central district	26	26 murder	19 committed for trial.
			3 dismissed.
			1 remanded to Eastern district.
			3 under remand.
Eastern district	6	6 murder	3 committal for trial.
			2 dismissed.
			1 under remand.
Western district	0		
	Total 32		

Summary Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central district -	14	Larceny - - - -	10 convicted, 4 dismissed.
	2	Breach of Customs Ordinance	2 convicted.
	1	Resisting constables in the discharge of their duty.	Dismissed.
	1	Offence by servant, under Master and Servants Ordinance.	Convicted.
	4	Desertion of seamen from ship	Convicted.
	1	Neglecting child - -	Dismissed.
	1	Assault - - - -	Convicted.
	1	Wilful destruction of property	Convicted.
Eastern district -	2	Assault - - - -	1 convicted, 1 dismissed.
	2	Larceny - - - -	1 convicted, 1 dismissed.
	1	Supplying arms to natives -	Convicted.
	1	Supplying explosives to natives.	Convicted.
	1	Supplying liquor to natives -	Convicted.
	1	Wilful destruction of property	Convicted.
Western district -	0		
	Total 33		

Civil Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Actions tried.	Amount involved.	Result of Action.
		£ s. d.	
Central district - - -	1	14 18 4	Settled out of court.
Eastern district - - -	3	63 11 3	1 settled out of court.
			2 plaintiff nonsuited.
Western district - -	0	—	
	Total 4	78 9 7	

TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court - - - - - - - -	22
In Lower Courts (exclusive of the 22 that went up to Central Court) - - - - - - - -	43
In all Courts - - - - - - - -	65

TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court - - - - - - - -	2
In lower Courts - - - - - - - -	4
In all Courts - - - - - - - -	6

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Administrative Visits of Inspection.

18. *Visit to Misima and Tagula.*—Early in July, 1889, a visit of inspection was made to the islands of Misima (St. Aignan) and Tagula (Sudest). There were then about 400 miners at work on Misima, divided into many parties and scattered over the island; there were about 300 on Tagula. There were several stores on each island at which goods could be purchased at a reasonable price. On either island it seemed to take hard work, even if well directed, to obtain 2 dwt. of gold a day. The natives and the miners were found to be on friendly terms, and a very high opinion was formed as to the character of the latter generally for industry, sobriety, and respect for law and order. A full account of this visit is given in the despatch which forms Appendix A. hereto.*

Aroma.—In returning from the east end of the Possession, from inspecting Misima, Tagula, Samarai, &c., a visit was paid to the important district of Aroma, the people of which had been reported as using threatening language in respect of the Government. The result of this inspection is given more in detail in Appendix B.†

19. *Cloudy Bay.*—As it had been reported at Port Moresby that two Europeans had been murdered by natives at Cloudy Bay, and that there was much excitement among the tribes all along the coast in that part of the country, as they were speculating on what action the Government would take, it was decided to visit the district with a strong party sufficient to assert the authority of the Government. Interpreters were obtained at Aroma, and the eldest son of Koapena, the great Aroma chief, joined the party. Domara, a coast village of Cloudy Bay, was reached on the 1st October, but the inhabitants had all fled. The alleged murderers were the people of Merani and Isimari villages, a few miles from the coast by river. On our approach they fled, and our party occupied the village of Merani, which was fortified by three houses and a high and strong palisade. In a few hours many of the inhabitants came within calling distance, and told our interpreters that they had killed the two white men. They would not entertain any proposal to deliver up the actual murderers. After much trouble the Domara tribe were found in the bush on another river some miles further along the coast, and they were induced to give information and assistance to the Government and to return to their homes. The Merani people became confident in consequence of this delay in obtaining complete and reliable information; they came up to the palisade and threw stones and spears inside it; they tried to surround our people when they went out of the village, and were eager to engage in hostilities.

The whole tribe had camped near to the village, and showed in every way that they did not doubt that they could set the Government at defiance, and that they would attack on the first

* See No. 2 in [C. 6323], April 1891.
† See No. 3 in [C. 6323], April 1891.

opportunity. Matters had thus reached a crisis on the afternoon of the 4th October, when a number of our party returned to Merani, after having arranged matters with the Domara tribe. Fourteen Europeans and two Papuans left the village to look for the native camp in the forest, and, if possible, to arrest some of the murderers. The camp was soon found, in good cover, and containing apparently several hundred natives; they had probably been joined by some neighbouring kindred people. An outpost of a score of young men, when surprised, fell back unmolested on the main camp. The warriors came to face us, keeping well under cover, and trying to surround us. Our party was kept in line in a piece of cleared ground about a couple of hundred yards from the native camp; a good position for defence, as a man could barely get within spear-throw without being seen, but a position from which nothing could be done unless the natives attacked. Taking up this ground also gave time to the women and children to get away, and seemed to have the effect of emboldening the assailants. Not a shot was fired until the foremost of the aggressors were almost near enough to throw their spears with effect, on which the word was given to fire on them. In two or three minutes they were driven back into the forest, when they fled in several parties in different directions.

It appeared, from information obtained subsequently, that two men were killed on the spot, four died of their wounds soon after, and several others received severe injuries. The defeat of the tribe was crushing. Shortly afterwards the leading actor in the murders was secured with an accomplice. He was identified by the Domu, Domara, and Merani people. The leading men of Merani with some of their women met us at Domara, brought thither by the chief of Domu. The re-settlement of the tribe was greatly interfered with by the unfortunate escape of one of the prisoners, who was, however, captured almost immediately by the Domara men. Nearly all the neighbouring tribes were visited, many of the chiefs making a return visit to the Government quarters at Domara. The country about Merani was found to be exceedingly fertile, but the whole district seemed to be extremely unhealthy. Including Papuans, Polynesians, and Europeans, in all 25 men landed in Cloudy Bay in connexion with this visit, and of these 24 contracted fever there, 23 of them on the spot and one a day or two after leaving it. The details of these proceedings will be found in Appendices C. and D. hereto,* respectively. An intelligent and experienced Polynesian, who was a good linguist, and could read and write, was left at Cloudy Bay to represent the Government; but, most unfortunately, he died of fever a few months afterwards. The two prisoners were safely lodged in Port Moresby gaol, where the principal one died, apparently of enteritis, produced by eating the fermenting sago brought from the west, which is a favourite article of diet with natives, and was given to the prisoners as a change of food. In the case of the second one,

* See Enclosures in Nos. 42 and 45 in [C. 6323], April 1891.

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a *nolle prosequi* was entered, and he was discharged, because suffering from a severe form of leprosy.

20. On the 21st November a party arrived in the s.s. "Merrie England" at the mouth of the Fly River to inspect that district. The first thing done was to make a tolerably complete examination of Kiwai Island, which, with the exception of Daumori, is the only island in the Fly frith that is permanently inhabited. Kiwai is about 36 miles long and about 2½ miles broad, with a population of about 5,000. No part of it is more than a very few feet above, and a considerable portion of it hardly as high as, the mark of full spring tides. It is all covered by wood. The sea and river seem to be encroaching on the island nearly all round it. Houses are generally from 150 to 200 feet long, and are occupied each by a large number of families. The people live mainly by agriculture, but they present an interesting transition between people of fixed location, who are surrounded by independent tribes whose territory cannot be crossed with impunity, and tribes that are nomadic in habit in sparsely peopled districts. Kiwai is surrounded by a chain of islands too low for permanent occupation, but inviting as temporary fishing grounds. Sometimes a whole tribe leave their settled homes on Kiwai, and go and camp on these islands for weeks at a time. They cultivate a great variety of yams, bananas, &c. Pottery is unknown to them, and they hardly use the betel-nut. They are very desirous of obtaining clothes and tobacco, and have the general trading aptitude of the Papuan. Two languages are spoken on the island, one of them by two tribes only, and these seem to have come from the left bank of the Fly to the island. They are not cannibals, and seldom go to war with each other. A more complete account of the inspection of Kiwai will be found in Appendix E. hereto,* in connexion with which a map of the island has been prepared by Mr. J. B. Cameron.†

21. On the 10th December a visit was paid to the island of Daumori (D'Albertis' Long Island). The opening of communication with its people was facilitated by some Sumai natives who accompanied the party. The island has an area of 5 or 6 square miles, a considerable part of which may be about a yard above high-water mark. This tribe were friendly; they number about 300. Their language differs from that of Kiwai, but many of them understand the latter dialect. They are closely related to the nearest tribes on the left bank of the river opposite Daumori. In appearance, manner, and customs they closely resemble the natives of Kiwai, but are not nearly so much Europeanised as the latter.

22. When the "Merrie England" was anchored in the Fly river, 51 miles from its mouth, a visit was paid to the powerful tribe of Odagositia, right opposite on the right bank. The land there is about 1 to 2 feet above high-water mark, all covered by

* See Enclosure 1 in No. 54 in [C. 6323].
† Not printed.

forest. This tribe, although not hostile, never became frank friends with us; probably, as it would appear, in consequence of former ill-treatment at the hands of Europeans. The village is remarkable in so far that practically the whole of its inhabitants, and they number several hundreds, live in one house—a fine structure, 520 feet long, and over 30 feet wide inside. This residence is kept scrupulously clean. The men are always armed. Their language is essentially different from that of Kiwai, but they understand a few words of the latter. They had not been brought into peaceful contact with Europeans before, and are evidently inclined to regard foreigners unfavourably.

23. On the 14th December the party was opposite the village of Tagota, which is on the right bank of the river, nearly 100 miles from its mouth. Up to that point the land, as far as seen on each bank of the river, is not more at any place than 1 or 2 feet above the water at high tide, in many places less. At about 80 miles the right bank is high enough for permanent occupation, and is inhabited. Soon after sunrise, on the morning mentioned above, 15 canoes, containing over 100 men, advanced to attack the party when the steam launch and boats had been left by the tide, which had gone out before daylight, helpless, in mud so deep that communication between those on board and those that had slept ashore was all but impossible. Five men of the party on the river bank were in a position to meet the assailants. By dropping rifle bullets close to the canoes they were prevented from landing on the left bank, and were not allowed nearer to the launch than 500 yards. After some time they were driven back on Tagota village, where they landed and drew up their canoes. Next day peace was made with them, on which they became friendly, and have been so on three subsequent visits. The journey was continued up the river to a point about 180 miles from its mouth, where a small depôt of coal was formed. Only a few natives who were hunting or fishing were seen between Tagota and that place. The country was found to be too low for European occupation, but there are probably parts which could be occupied by a rice-growing population. It is all wooded, but does not produce sago, cocoanuts, or other fruit trees. There is, however, some good cedar timber to be had there. A more complete description of this part of the country, including that referred to in paragraphs 21 and 22, and of the natives met with, will be found in Appendix F.*

24. On the 26th December an ascent of the Fly river was begun from Odagositia, which was continued to the vicinity of the British-German boundary. At about 150 miles from the mouth of the river the last clearly-marked tidal influence was observed. At about 180 miles this river was found to send down a stream of water sufficient to supply double the present population of the globe with 60 gallons of water every 24 hours. The first bifurcation of the Fly—into the Fly and Strickland—is,

* Enclosure 2 in No. 54 in [C. 6323].

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according to our reckoning, at latitude S. 7° 26′, longitude E. 141° 18′. The second bifurcation—into the Alice and the Fly at D'Albertis' Junction—is, according to Mr. Cameron's computation, 460 miles from the mouth of the river, at latitude S. 6° 11′ and longitude E. 141° 8′. Between these two points the river seems to go about 8 or 10 miles into Dutch New Guinea. The next great division is into two rivers nearly equal in size, the Fly and the Palmer, at about 540 miles from the mouth of the river. In the third and fourth hundred miles a great deal of the country is too wet to grow timber, and the population is not fixed or settled, probably because the land is too low for permanent occupation. This is what has probably given the nomadic habit to the tribes of that district. Wild bananas and bread-fruit trees are common; sago trees are not frequent. The first real grass seen was 370 miles from the mouth of the river, and the last cocoa nut tree is at 414 miles on Mr. Cameron's traverse. The first low hills begin some 20 or 30 miles above D'Albertis' Junction; they are of sandstone, are wooded, a few hundred feet high, and are continued up to the mountain range of the interior. With them also begin the first traces of gold in the bed of the river. This was traced to the frontier in the Palmer, but there was nothing to indicate the presence of gold in payable quantity. From some distance below D'Albertis' Junction to the frontier, parts of the country are fit for permanent settlement, but the population still remains scanty. Only at one spot was any actual aggression made on the party, and on that occasion it was by a number of natives we had not previously seen. A Malay received an arrow in the right shoulder-blade. The climate is good. There are thunderstorms daily, and the thermometer in the shade rises to from 85° to 90°, but at night descends to from 72° to 76°. On an average about 1 in 10 of the party was sick. There was nothing seen that would support the idea that there is any race in the interior there different from that on the coast. It does not seem necessary that the Government should establish any administrative influence at present beyond Tagota. A fuller account of this interesting river and country will be found in Appendix G.*

25. The left bank of the Fly was examined from Daumori and to near the mouth of the river, and some relations established with the warlike and dreaded tribe of Egéreba, which occupies the part of the country known to the Kiwai tribes as Manouetti. Although the land lies low, there are here considerable areas that are habitable. The tribes of Daware and Sui, on the right bank of the frith, were also visited and made acquainted in some measure with the Government. At Parama it was found that mission work had made more progress than on the Fly, and that about three fourths of the people there wear a few rags of European clothing. The island is generally low and wet, and the inhabitants plant a considerable part of their food on the mainland.

* Enclosure 1 in No. 57 in [C. 6323].

They do not now carry on war, and are very desirous of trading and of learning the ways of the white man. There are two teachers of the London Missionary Society at Parama, and one at Sui. Near to Yaru Island about a score of boats were engaged in fishing, some for pearlshell, some for trepang. Only two or three of these were local boats, all others having come from Queensland. The island is occupied partly by Papuans, who are attaining some small degree of civilisation, and partly by Polynesians. Some of them engage in fishing trepang, &c. The neighbouring island of Bobo is very low and wet, and is not inhabited. On the 16th February the Oriomo river, which opens opposite Yaru, was ascended for about 40 miles, where it breaks up into small creeks. The first 30 miles were found to be low and swampy; then red clay banks and higher wooded land begin.

Two tribes, the Dariamo and Keruriamo, were met, and friendly relations were established with them. All the coast tribes between Yaru and the Mai Kussa were visited, as well as some of the inland peoples. The Binature river, at Mouatta, was examined, and a visit paid to the inland Goua tribe. The Chief and many men of the Másingara tribe, an inland sept, came to Mouatta to become acquainted with the Government. The Kawa Kussa river was examined for some distance, but the tribe residing not far from it could not be found, as they had retired inland from fear of the marauding Tugere tribe. The little hill of Mabudauan, near the mouth of the Kawa Kussa, the only eminence between the Fly river and the British-Dutch boundary, about 200 feet high, was selected as a Government station. It was found that the Kiwai language, with local alterations, is spoken or understood as far as the Kawa Kussa.

This district will be found reported on more in detail in Appendix H.*

26. The so-called rivers, Mai Kussa and Wassi Kussa, were examined and found to be arms of the sea, about 28 miles long, when they join and break up at nearly 50 miles from the sea into small creeks. The ground on Strachan Island, which they enclose on two of its three sides, is low and wet, covered by mangrove, eucalyptus, and other trees where the soil is not too poor and raw to grow wood. Strachan Island is poor soil, and produces no uncultivated native food. The Wassi tribe, poor, and persecuted by the Tugere, were met with and promised protection. The four islands at the mouth of the Wassi Kussa appear to belong to Queensland, but they are of no value. A great proportion of the country between the Wassi Kussa and the boundary is low and wet, and covered by mangrove; but there are places where there are dry plateaus a couple of yards above high-water mark growing stunted shrubs and trees and short grass. At several places there are traces of cocoa-nut groves, and there are to be seen the sites of abandoned villages which have been depopulated by the Tugere. This tribe was met with

* Enclosure 2 in No. 57 in [C. 6323].

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in force about half-a-score of miles beyond the boundary on their annual raid eastward. They seemed to become suspicious that they were being watched or waited for, and did not come any further. They appear to come from Dutch New Guinea. All along this part of the coast there are great mud, sand, or coral flats left dry at low water. There is no appearance of any valuable fishing there. On the return journey the mouth of a river was found opening into Heath Bay. It was ascended for 120 miles, where it breaks up into small creeks. The first 30 miles was low and wet, covered to a large extent by trees of the mangrove family; then grass-covered swamps and dry plateaus begin. About 60 miles from the mouth there is land fit for permanent human occupation. From there patches of fairly good land are met with. Friendly relations were opened with two tribes which live 20 or 30 miles apart. In many points they resemble the Tugere, but are inferior to them physically. This river drains the greater portion of the country that lies between the Fly river and the Dutch boundary. It is better suited for navigation than any river met with in the Possession. It has been named the Morehead, in honour of the late Premier of Queensland. It was found that there is only one full tide in 24 hours along this western coast. Fuller particulars will be found in Appendix I.*

27. On the 26th April an inspection of the St. Joseph river district was begun. The river is a rapid running stream which will be navigable only to vessels of very shallow draught. The district contains, perhaps, 150 square miles, much of which is rich alluvial land, but a considerable portion is wet and swampy. The population is probably about 10,000; and they are the best fed and the richest in native property in the Possession as far as it is at present known. Some of the tribes count over 1,000 members in one village. They are neither cannibals nor skull-hunters, but the scourge of the district consists in intertribal retaliatory murders and massacres. Many Europeans have at different times visited this part of the country. Some of the Chiefs have considerable authority among the people, and are remarkably intelligent. They are, as a rule, a healthy and robust race, and it is hoped that with their superior soil it may be possible to teach them to become producers of something for export. Efforts were made to put a stop to a great feud raging between several of the tribes, but these endeavours were not then crowned by success, although the Chiefs were individually generally conciliated. At most of the villages a promise was obtained that land would be sold for mission purposes. A suitable site was selected for the head-quarters of the mission on a low hill near the river. It was found that there are two languages in use; that spoken by the villagers next the sea being the same as the language of Roro and Maiva, that spoken further inland being essentially different in structure. The mission establishments

* Enclosure in No. 59 in [C. 6323].

and the native villages on Roro were inspected. The natives are poor compared to the St. Joseph tribes, and their soil is not rich. They seem to obtain a large portion of their food from the mainland in exchange for fish or pottery.

28. A second journey was made to the St. Joseph district in the end of May on account of disturbances between Rarai and a tribe not seen on the former visit, as they lived in a remote place not easy to be reached. A walk of seven or eight hours brought the party from the coast to the principal village of the district. A formal peace was concluded publicly between the tribes of Rarai, Amoamo (Pinongo), Baipa, Aipeana, and Maiva. Amoamo (Aku) was visited, and its Chiefs and people acknowledged the authority of the Government, and peaceful relations were established between them and their former antagonists of Rarai and Ngauauni. At the same time the hostile tribes of Inawai and Inawabui were again warned that they must put an end to their intertribal strife. Both sides gave assurances that they will preserve the peace in future. The smaller community of Bioto was called on at the same time. They were found to be in a satisfactory condition, and very desirous to obtain a teacher. The particulars of these inspections of the St. Joseph district are given in Appendices J. and M. hereto.*

29. On the 23rd April a visit was paid to the village of Delena, and the Chief and people had a good opportunity of making themselves acquainted with the immediate objects of the Government. They do not fight with their neighbours, and are an industrious community of probably nearly 200 people; they have made considerable advance towards civilisation. Next day Nara was visited because it had been reported that a woman had been murdered there and the teacher threatened. It was found that the Chieftess of the tribe had no authority whatever, that a number of men had gone back to the worst practices of their old savagery, had been killing other people's pigs, had threatened several persons, and had actually killed one. The unruly element was completely cowed and humiliated, and the older men gained over; but no arrests could be made, as the actual murderers had fled. A short time afterwards the principal culprit was arrested, and two accomplices were surrendered and delivered up to the Government. A fuller description of the incidents referred to is contained in Appendix K.†

30. On 11th May an inspection was made of the district of Maiva and Kevori. Very considerable progress had been made by the London Missionary Society in softening the manners of each of these tribes, but it had not yet reached such a stage as to put a stop to a long-continued blood feud between the two septs. Neither side could entertain the idea of making concessions to the other; but each professed to be weary of the struggle and to be glad to have peace imposed on both. The actual formalities

* Enclosure 1 in No. 76, and Enclosure in No. 86 in [C. 6323].
† Enclosure 2 in No. 76 in [C. 6323].

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of peace-making were carried out the day after it was formally enjoined on each tribe, the ceremonies taking place in the presence of the teachers of both tribes. A second visit was paid to this district on the 23rd May, when relations between the two tribes were found to be satisfactory. The whole district probably numbers over 3,000 souls. They have a large area of good flat land between the sea and the low rolling hills behind them; but it is not sufficient for such a large population, and it was found that they have many gardens in the hollows between the hills, and even beyond them, probably half-a-dozen miles from the village. They are an intelligent people, for whom a bright future may be expected. Fuller details are given in Appendix K.*

31. Inspection tours of lesser importance were made to other districts, as to the tribe of Kabadi, who were, like their neighbours at Nara, falling under the influence of a lawless element in the community; to Kerepunu, a second visit to Aroma, Mairu, Suau, &c., but these need not be further spoken of here.

Government Property.

32. The property of the Government mentioned in last year's report has been augmented by the purchase of:—(1.) About half a-score of acres of land at Sagara, on the island of Misima, as a site for the station of the Assistant Magistrate of the district. This was bought from the native owners by the Resident Magistrate, at a cost to the Government of about 10*l.* in merchandise. (2.) Probably 320 acres of waste land near Port Moresby. This transaction was negotiated by the Government Secretary. With almost insignificant exceptions, the land is of use only for grazing purposes, and even for that it is far from being of a superior character. The cost of purchase amounted to 13*l.*, the sale being effected by the ascertained native owners.

33. The island of Tauko (Fisherman Island) has been taken possession of, on behalf of the Crown, as being waste and vacant land. It is situated two or three miles from Port Moresby, has not been used for planting purposes, and was not claimed by any natives, although due inquiry was made on that point. A considerable area of it is considered suitable for the cocoanut tree. Some 1,500 nuts have been planted during the year, and 3,000 or 4,000 more have been sprouted there, to be planted out when the rainy season commences. So far, the undertaking promises to be successful. If these plantations thrive they will be of great use in the district. Intrinsically, they will be valuable to the Government, and they may suggest and encourage similar work among the natives. They could, however, not be induced to plant cocoanuts on such a place as this island without some such example; they would, under ordinary circumstances, speedily steal and eat every nut planted out.

34. The small granite hill of Mabudauan at the mouth of the Kawa Kussa River was found to be waste and vacant land, and

* Enclosure 2 in No. 76 [in C. 6323].

was taken possession of as a station for the Resident Magistrate of the Western Division. The necessary buildings have been put up, land has been cleared and planted, and the place has now become a favourite resort for natives. It appears that now several tribes are inclined to claim it as their property, and some payment may have to be made after careful inquiry as to who should receive it.

35. To the Government vessels there was added by purchase the steam launch "Ruby," at a cost of 700*l*. This vessel is 37 feet over all, and has a width of about 7 feet. It is at present used by the Resident Magistrate of the Western Division.

36. The Crown lands at Port Moresby have been increased in value by the formation of roads and the building of a jetty in the vicinity of the Government offices, and by the laying out of an experimental garden on the land near to Government House, and by the erection of new fencing.

Establishments.

37. Officers employed in the service of the Possession during the year were as follows:—

Office.	Name.	Date of assuming Office.	Emoluments per Annum.
Administrator - -	Sir William MacGregor, M.D., K.C.M.G.	4th September 1888 -	1,500*l*. and 200*l*. allowance.
Private Secretary -	T. H. Hatton-Richards -	24th September 1889	300*l*.
Chief Judicial Officer -	The Hon. Francis Pratt Winter.	25th October 1888 -	1,000*l*.
Government Secretary and Treasurer.	The Hon. Anthony Musgrave.	4th September 1888	500*l*. and 200*l*. allowance.
Resident Magistrate, Eastern Division.	The Hon. B. A. Hely -	21st October 1888 -	500*l*.
Assistant Resident Magistrate, Central Division.*	The Hon. M. H. Moreton	11th September 1889	300*l*.
Resident Magistrate, Western Division.*	J. B. Cameron - -	" "	500*l*.
Collector of Customs, &c., Port Moresby.	Frank Lawes - -	22nd September 1888	300*l*.
Commandant* - -	Duncan Alexander McNeill	11th Sept. 1889 to 31st Sept. 1889.	"
Government Printer -	John George Allen -	4th September 1888	275*l*.
Government Agent at Rigo.	George Hunter† - -	4th September 1888 to 28th May 1890.	250*l*.
Gaoler and Overseer -	Dennis Gleeson - -	4th September 1888	"
Sub-Collector of Customs, Samarai.	David Ballantine - -	25th July 1889 -	200*l*.
Government Storekeeper	Charles Kowald - -	4th September 1888	150*l*.
Master s.s. "Merrie England."*	James Martin Hennessy -	6th August 1889 -	270*l*.
Chief Engineer* ditto -	Henry Phillips - -	8th August 1889 -	240*l*.
Master "Hygeia" -	Colin Thomson - -	4th September 1888	"

* New appointment. † Deceased; duties now discharged by Mr. A. C. English.

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38. Two deaths occurred in the staff during the year, both set down at the time to fever. Mr. George Hunter, Government Agent in the Rigo District, was supposed to have succumbed to this disease, complicated apparently by pneumonia, after a few days' illness. Almost immediately after his decease the Government received information to the effect that Mr. Hunter had met with foul play during an attack of fever. As it is usual among the natives of New Guinea to ascribe every death to human agency of some kind or other, it was thought that in all probability there was no basis for the supposition that Mr. Hunter had been murdered. His successor in office was instructed to make quiet and cautious inquiry into the matter; and after being some time in the district he reported that he believed the rumour to be without foundation. Subsequently the new Government Agent, Mr. A. C. English, traced out the crime, and with great ability arrested the murderers, who are now in gaol under sentence of death. Mr. Hunter's death was a decided loss to the public service, as he was getting his station and district into much better order, and was making good progress in a work that was considered of much importance to the Government—the making of a road from Port Moresby to Aroma. Mr. Hunter had also begun to study the native dialects on a systematic method, and had come to like his work and to take a deep interest in it.

The second death was that of Maka, a native of Lifu. He was at one time on the teaching staff of the London Missionary Society in New Guinea, and was one of the best linguists in the Possession. He was put in charge of the Cloudy Bay District as Government Agent, when he unfortunately, after a few months, became saturated with fever, of which he died. From his tact and knowledge, and on account of his quiet but firm character, there was every reason to believe that he would become a valuable public servant. He had been in the service of the Protectorate, and was much esteemed by Mr. Douglas.

39. During the year there were a great many cases of fever among the officers and employées of the Government. Exposure to wet, to cold winds, or to the direct rays of the sun, seem to be predisposing causes. The Papuans employed did not seem to have any special immunity from it, but their attacks are, as a rule, less severe than those suffered by foreigners.

No change took place in the membership of the Executive or Legislative Council during the year.

There were appointed members of the Native Regulation Board, under Ordinance No. IX. of 1889 :—

The members of the Legislative Council.
F. E. P. Lawes, Esq.
J. B. Cameron, Esq.
T. H. Hatton-Richards, Esq.
Andrew Goldie, Esq.
A. H. Kissack, Esq.

These appointments were made on the 25th April 1890.

TRADE.

40. In the Appendix O., page 41, will be found detailed statements of imports, exports, and navigation; also a return which shows the amount of correspondence which, exclusive of official matter, passed through the Post Office. The figures are contrasted with those of the previous year.

Imports.

The total value of imports entered at Samarai, and Port Moresby was:—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1888–89 - -	6,016 13 2	5,091 19 0	11,108 12 2
1889–90 - -	6,798 13 0	9,305 10 0	16,104 3 0

The principal items were:—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.
	£	£
Food stuffs - - -	5,400	7,124
Drapery - - - -	1,185	1,392
Tobacco and cigars - -	996	1,290
Hardware (including grindery) -	927	1,123
Beverages - - - -	805	1,142
Clothes - - - -	550	190
Building materials - - -	246	1,086
Other articles - - -	999	2,756
Totals - - -	11,108	16,104

Exports.

The total value of exports has been:—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888–89 - -	5,071	871	5,943
1889–90 - -	5,458	997	6,455

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It will be noticed that in the table of Exports, in Appendix O., gold does not appear. Vessels have been cleared outwards from Samarai, passing the goldfields—Misima (Saint Aignan) and Tagula (Sudest)—on the voyage from Samarai to Cooktown. All gold obtained was in this way taken or sent to Australia without being entered or declared at any Custom House in the Possession. The amounts declared at the Custom House at Cooktown, which no doubt are greatly less than the total obtained, have kindly been furnished by Mr. Burkitt, Sub-Collector of Customs, Cooktown:—

1888–89.		1889–90.	
Ounces - -	3,850	Ounces - -	3,470
Value - -	£14,387	Value - -	£12,440

Bêche-de-mer.—Next to gold the most valuable article of export has been trepang. The produce of this fishery as compared with last year is as follows:—

1888–89.		1889–90.	
Tons - -	38½	Tons - -	70¼
Value - -	£2,178	Value - -	£4,682

Pearlshell comes next in importance as an export, but this fishery is still declining, as will be seen from the following comparative statement of the quantity declared at the Custom House:—

1888–89.		1889–90.	
Tons - -	15¾	Tons - -	12¼
Value - -	£1,510	Value - -	£1,050

A great quantity of bêche-de-mer and pearlshell found in the waters of the Possession is still taken direct to Queensland, and does not figure in these returns.

Copra was exported last year to the extent of 76 tons, valued at 550*l.*; and this year only 43 tons, valued at 250*l.*, has been entered outwards. This does not include a quantity, at least as great, which has been sent to German New Guinea without being declared at the Custom House. It is said by the local traders

that freight and charges on copra shipped by way of Australia are so heavy that its export does not pay.

Shipping.

No vessel under a foreign flag was entered or cleared at the Custom House during the year. The movements of vessels compare thus with those of last year :—

—:	1888–89.	1889–90.
Seagoing vessels -	Entered 47 ; tonnage, 4,108 -	Entered, 45 ; tonnage, 3,727.
	Cleared, 38 ; tonnage, 3,284 -	Cleared, 45 ; tonnage, 3,520.
Vessels coastwise -	Entered, 151 ; tonnage, 3,374	Entered, 47 ; tonnage, 2,170.
	Cleared, 150 ; tonnage, 3,668 -	Cleared, 51 ; tonnage, 2,767.

Vessels engaged in fishing in the western waters of the Possession have not been entered at the Custom House.

Postal.—The arrival and departure of mails has been somewhat irregular, there being no subsidized mail service. The postal returns are contrasted with those of last year below :—

Article.	1888–89.	1889–90.
Letters received - - -	2,366	3,166
Letters despatched - - -	2,587	2,586
Packets received - - -	93	111
Packets despatched - -	98	84
Newspapers received - -	4,071	6,844
Newspapers despatched - -	574	590

Mission Work.

41. So far as the Possession is concerned there has practically been little change in the staffs of the London Missionary Society and of the Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. The stations of the former society in the Fly River district and westward were visited during the year. It was well known to the society that renewed effort was required in that part of the country ; and it has been put under the direction of the Rev. James Chalmers, under whose energy, earnestness, and experience a great extension of mission work may confidently be looked

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for. He has already visited the district and ascertained what its requirements are. The same gentleman has accomplished most useful work at Motu-Motu, which has for some time past been his head-quarters.

Most creditable work has been accomplished in the villages of Kevori by Papuan teachers, and in the villages of Maiva by Raratonga teachers, under the general supervision of Mr. Chalmers. The teachers from Delena to Morobada were also visited. They have had great difficulties to contend with on account of the lawless disposition of numbers of the inhabitants there. Several of the tribes had fallen under the influence of a set of unruly men, but such steps had been taken by the Government as will, it is believed, supply a remedy to this state of matters. The Port Moresby establishment of the mission was again inspected. Two points require special mention in connexion with the school there. In the training establishment were five young men who will, it is expected, begin to take up mission work on their own account within the year. The extent and accuracy of their Scripture knowledge was most gratifying, and reflected very great credit on the Rev. W. G. Lawes. In the lower school some half dozen classes were taught by native women, who have been fitted for that work by Mrs. Lawes. Mr. Lawes has translated the whole of the New Testament into the Motu tongue, of which he is clearly the greatest master, and is engaged now in revising this great and important work. His grammar and dictionary of the same language, already a volume of astonishing accuracy and comprehensiveness, is being extended.

The school and training establishment of the same society at Kerepunu was found to be in a very efficient state, under the control of the Rev. A. Pearse. Nine students were being trained as teachers, and it was thought then that in about a year several of them would be able to begin teaching work in the neighbouring villages. In the upper school were 32 pupils. In this school there is present the same high tone of order and respectful attention that was noticed on the first inspection of the upper school at Port Moresby. The women are taught sewing and reading by Mrs. Pearse. Mr. Pearse is translating Scriptural lessons, &c., into the Kerepunu language, and printing these himself. Detailed reports of the visits of inspection to the schools of the London Missionary Society at Port Moresby, at Kerepunu, and at Mairu and Suau Islands will be found in Appendices L. and N. hereto.*

The new mission station at Mairu (Toulon Island) was visited, and it was found that the teacher, a native of Tahiti, had made good progress, and had already gained considerable influence. The stations at Suau, Milne Bay, and Wari were all found to be doing good work.

42. All the stations of the Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart were visited during the year. Two Brothers were

* Enclosures in No. 78 and 87 in [C.—6323].

in charge of the school for the two native villages of Roro (Yule Island). About two dozen children knew the alphabet, and about half that number were beginning to read. On the mainland they had one establishment at work and well grounded, at the village of Mou, in charge of a kind, devoted, and intelligent teacher, Père Tousblanc, and one Brother. School work there was progressing very satisfactorily, and a large influence for good has been gained there by the mission. Some 30 children were seen at school, about half the number on the roll, and these all knew the alphabet, and were beginning to read. Schools were opened lately, from Mou as a centre, at two other villages in the vicinity of that place. Unfortunately the members of this mission have suffered greatly from fever, apparently attributable in a great measure to defective diet, to the performance of much manual labour in the sun, and to the notorious insalubrity of Roro Island. Clearly they have undergone a great deal of suffering and hardship, and their progress has thereby been retarded.

The plans of Bishop Verjus for extending the work of the mission until it embraces the whole of the Saint Joseph district appear to be good, and he possesses in a marked manner the energy, intelligence, and ability required to carry them out.

43. Both the English Church and the Wesleyan Church have decided to take up missionary work in the Possession. The Rev. A. Maclaren visited New Guinea on behalf of the former, and the Rev. George Brown on behalf of the latter. These gentlemen met the Rev. W. G. Lawes and the Rev. James Chalmers at Port Moresby, where they resolved to divide the field of labour, so that the Wesleyan mission should occupy the whole of the Louisiade and Dentrecasteaux groups of islands, and the part of the mainland from East Cape to Cape Ducie; the Anglican mission the whole of the north-east coast from Cape Ducie to the northern boundary; the London Missionary Society all the south coast, excluding the portion taken up by the missionaries of the Society of the Sacred Heart. This is as good an arrangement as could have been come to. The two new missions were happy in the selection of their representatives for the settlement of these matters; and it can be seen that the veteran missionaries of the original mission have met their fellow-workers in the most generous spirit, seeking only the best interests of the native population.

Land.

44. No grants of land in fee-simple have been made during the year. As shown above, provision has been made for the issue of Crown grants, and for the registration of ownership on real property by bringing the Queensland Real Property Acts into force within the Possession. This will shortly be supplemented by a law which will lay down the terms and conditions under which Crown lands can be obtained and leased or alienated in perpetuity.

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A large additional area of the lands of the Possession came under inspection in the course of the year. The best that came under notice is that of the St. Joseph River district, which appears to be of high quality. It has a large, industrious, healthy population, which live by agriculture. No systematic plan for the settlement of Europeans there would be possible; but it is not improbable that small areas of neutral land between tribes that have been enemies for generations may be found which could become Crown lands, either on the ground of being waste or by purchase. If this is found to be the case there could be no better place for the commencement of some industry, such, for example, as that for the production of sugar, the cultivation of corn, rice, &c.

45. On the lower stretches of the great Fly river, there is apparently not much land sufficiently elevated to be fit for European occupation that is not in use by natives. Towards the frontier, on the upper regions of the Fly river, there is an indefinite area of land that might be fit for occupation by Europeans, and the climate there seems to be good, and there are traces of gold all along the river beds. But the distance from the coast, 500 or 600 miles by the river, is practically prohibitive at present.

46. The country that lies between the Fly river and the Government Station at Mabudauan is so low and wet that European settlement on it on any large scale is improbable. There is a considerable native population there on the drier and better portions of the land. From Mabudauan westward to the British-Dutch boundary the land is low and wet, much of it covered by mangrove or eucalyptus trees, and there is at present practically no native population on the coast there, the tribes that formerly lived there having been driven further inland or destroyed by the marauding, powerful Tugere tribe from Dutch New Guinea. There are, however, patches of this country that would be good grazing land, and some of it might be fit for cultivation on a small scale. Some good pasture land and small areas fit for cultivation were seen on the upper stretches of the River Morehead, at from 60 to 120 miles from the coast by the river, but most of the soil there will be found to be low and wet. The best land there is occupied by two native tribes. It may be stated briefly that, so far, no district has been found in the Possession in which any systematic plan for the settlement of Europeans could be carried out.

FINANCE.

Revenue.

47. The total revenue collected and paid over to the Treasury of Queensland was 3,015*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* It is contrasted with that of last year in the table below:—

Items.	1888–89.	1889–90.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs dues - - - -	2,419 10 2	2,893 10 4
Gold field receipts - - - -	187 17 0	20 15 0
Shipping fees - - - -	1 18 0	4 10 0
Fines - - - - -	25 13 6	41 10 0
Licenses - - - - -	2 0 0	11 0 0
Miscellaneous - - - -	42 13 2	44 8 0
Totals - - -	£2,679 11 10	£3,015 13 4

Expenditure.

48. The actual expenditure charged to the 15,000*l.* guaranteed for the necessary expenses of the administration was 14,975*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* It is classified below, and is compared with the expenditure shown in last year's report :—

Head of Expenditure.	1888–89.	1889–90.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Civil List salaries - - - -	2,633 19 7	3,300 0 0
Other salaries - - - -	1,796 0 6	2,381 18 6
Vessels and boats - - - -	2,747 11 4	2,564 3 0
Allowances—house and travelling—for all officers and employés.	1,296 13 11	2,548 3 2
Stores - - - - -	722 0 7	350 18 8
Buildings - - - - -	185 1 10	1,144 19 3
Agriculture - - - - -	2 10 0	137 11 9
Mail service - - - - -	445 0 0	—
Miscellaneous - - - -	940 13 6	2,547 11 0
Totals - - -	£10,769 11 3	£14,975 5 4

49. A balance of 1,512*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, which was to the credit of the Protectorate account when sovereignty was declared, was allowed by the contributing Colonies to be used by the administration for special exploration purposes. Of this 642*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* was expended during the year, and there remains to the credit of this account 869*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*

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50. Expenditure in connexion with the s.s. "Merrie England" for maintenance for the year ending 31st March 1890 was 5,154*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, and for the quarter ending 30th June last 2,122*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* The Imperial grant for the maintenance of the steamer has been increased to 5,000*l.* a year, but the total cost, including insurance, will not be less than 7,000*l.* for the current year. There was expended in August and September of last year on repairs and alterations of the "Merrie England" 959*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, and on the purchase of a steam launch 700*l.* These two last sums were charged to the Steamer Purchase Account, created under section five of the Second Schedule to "The British "New Guinea (Queensland) Act of 1887." This account now stands as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Cost of "Merrie England" prior to departure from London, including insurance for 12 months -	11,981	7	2
Agency expenses on voyage out -	1,072	16	10
Other expenses up to delivery in British New Guinea - -	407	14	1
Repairs and alterations, 1889 -	959	5	6
Launch "Ruby" - - -	700	0	0
Unexpended balance - -	3,378	16	5
	18,500	0	0

It is hoped that the unexpended balance will be made available for the purchase of a vessel or vessels suitable permanently for the use of the Administration in the western part of the Possession.

51. No change has been made in the tariff of Customs dues during the year. Speaking generally of the rates of duty leviable, they must be said to be low. Biscuits, flour, meats, fish, meal, fresh vegetables, building material, machinery, and most things connected with shipping are free. The duty on drapery, boots and shoes, hardware, clothes, and cutlery is at the rate of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*; on rice, 10*s.* per ton; on trade tobacco, 1*s.* per lb.; on sugar, 2*s.* 4*d.* per cwt.; on tea, 2*d.* per lb.; and on other articles in something like the same proportion. The tariff will be found in full as Appendix Q. hereto.*

52. The Hon. A. Musgrave has acted as Treasurer during the year without any increase to his salary. The efficient way in which he has discharged these additional duties will be gathered from the clear and masterly report of Mr. Deshon, Auditor General of Queensland, in Appendix P.

Native Dialects.

53. During the year much time and attention was given to the study of a few of the native dialects of the Possession. These

* *See* pages 293–297 of [C.—5883], August 1889.

will be found in Appendix X. hereto.* Two of these are from the western division, the languages of Kiwai and of Boigu (Sabai). The former is likely to be of nearly as much use in the west as Motu is in the central district. It is spoken or understood more or less all over the Fly frith, and round the coast as far west as the Kawa Kussa river. The language of the tribes on the Morehead river, and that of the Tugere tribe, are unfortunately still quite unknown; even to the Boigu natives, the most westerly people whose language is known to us, they are entirely incomprehensible.

54. The three dialects from the central district, namely, those of the Upper St. Joseph, of the Koiari and Koita tribes, will be in point of utility very far behind Motu, but they possess considerable interest, and will be of some use, especially Koiari and Koita, in establishing relations with the tribes on the north of these people. The language of the Upper St. Joseph is perhaps of more value to the ethnologist than any of the others, possessing as it does affinities that are not shared with the Roro-Maiva tongue spoken by a people near to them and between them and the coast. The latter will, however, probably finally become the printed, business, and school language of the district. Mr. F. Lawes has performed a large share in preparing these three vocabularies.

55. The appendix contains five dialects from the east end of the Possession. Those of Misima (St. Aignan) and of Tagula (Sudest) were begun by Mr. B. H. Thomson, when my private secretary, and both Mr. Hely and Mr. Moreton assisted in their extension. Mr. Ballantine gave very efficient assistance in preparing the Sariba vocabulary. The Sariba dialect will probably become the best known of all the east-end languages, on account of Samarai being the principal Government station there and a shipping port. Of the Awaiama language a few words are understood as far north as Kapi Kapi (Cape Vogel).

56. It is not pretended that even the fullest of these vocabularies is anything more than a mere introduction. Imperfect as they are they represent an amount of patient labour that can best be estimated by those who have undertaken similar work.

57. By the kind permission of the Rev. W. G. Lawes, I am able to reproduce seven native languages reduced to writing by the London Missionary Society. The vocabulary of the Motu language given here is a mere introduction to that tongue, inserted for the purposes of comparison. Mr. Lawes has prepared and published as a separate work a comprehensive grammar and dictionary of the Motu tongue, a work of the careful, exhaustive, and solid kind, that will be the more admired the more it is examined and tested. It will undoubtedly remain the standard authority for all time. It has been of much use to the Government.

* Not printed.

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Scientific Results.

58. The acquisitions to natural science made during the year, if not perhaps of quite so important a character as those obtained in the period covered by the last Annual Report, present nevertheless some interesting features. I have again to express my acknowledgments to Baron Sir Ferdinand Von Mueller, K.C.M.G., F.R.S., for a note on certain botanical specimens submitted to that distinguished botanist for classification, which will be found in Appendix T., page 63. Other specimens of the flora of the Possession are now on their way to Melbourne for examination by that gentleman, and it is hoped that a description of their characteristics may be received for inclusion in the next Annual Report.

Mr. C. W. De Vis, M.A., Curator of the Queensland Museum, has also once more furnished a valuable contribution on zoological and ornithological collections. His reports are contained in Appendix U., page 64.

Mr. H. Tryon, Assistant Curator of the Queensland Museum, has contributed an interesting and exhaustive report. The first part deals with beetles procured in the St. Joseph district, the second with butterflies obtained in different parts of the Possession; this appears in Appendix V., page 69. Mr. C. Hedley, of the Queensland Museum, who visited the Possession at the commencement of the year, is now engaged in an examination of the shells collected on the various expeditions he undertook, but his report thereon will not, it is feared, be ready for some time to come.

Thanks are also due to Messrs. J. G. Sloane and J. D. Ogilby, of the Australian Museum, Sydney, for notes on certain coleoptera and on reptiles, batrachians, fishes, &c., respectively, which are included in Appendix W., page 84.

The examination of fossils from the Fly river, which has been kindly undertaken by Mr. R. Etheridge, is not yet complete, and consequently the publication of his remarks thereon must be deferred until next year.

General.

59. In compliance with instructions, I left Port Moresby on the 22nd July for Brisbane, to transact there various matters of business connected with the Administration. Estimates of expenditure for the year and several draft Ordinances were discussed, some new appointments were made to the public service of the Possession, and the s.s. "Merrie England" was refitted and underwent repairs. I returned to Port Moresby on the 23rd September. During my absence the Hon. F. P. Winter acted as Deputy Administrator, and conducted the duties of the office to my entire satisfaction.

60. During the year the Administration of the Possession received much practical assistance from the Hon. B. D. More-

head, Premier of Queensland, who with his colleagues as heads of departments in Queensland did everything they could to advance and facilitate the work of the Administration. Mr. Morehead had a considerable amount of business transacted for the Possession free of cost, and his experience as a business man was often of much use to the Administration. The Hon. A. J. Thynne, Minister of Justice, very kindly revised the drafts of Ordinances prepared, so that the Administration had the advantage of his knowledge and experience. The s.s. "Merrie England" was repaired and refitted under the supervision of the port authorities of Brisbane, and docked free of charge. The Administration has also received valuable and much appreciated assistance from Mr. W. M. Davidson, Surveyor General, and from Mr. R. H. Lawson, chief draftsman in the Survey Office. Mr. E. Deshon, Auditor General, has very kindly advised and assisted the Administration in many matters affecting the keeping of the accounts of the Possession, and has done all in his power to secure for them a satisfactory audit.

There has been every reason to be satisfied with the way in which the officers of the Possession have performed their several duties during the year. Less has been accomplished by some of those exposed to the vicissitudes of climate than would have been achieved had they suffered less from fever. It has been mentioned already that Mr. Winter efficiently performed the duties of Deputy Administrator for some time. The special and very important duties of his office as Chief Magistrate have been discharged with the care and patience, and in the simple manner, that is so necessary in such a country as British New Guinea.

Mr. Musgrave as Government Secretary has shown such devotion to his work and so much administrative ability in conducting official business, that it is easy for the Administrator to be more frequently absent from Port Moresby than would otherwise be the case. To Mr. J. B. Cameron we are indebted for the originals of most of the maps that accompany this report. The most valuable prepared during the year are those of Cloudy Bay, the Fly River, Kiwai Island, and of the country west of the Fly River, all prepared by Mr. Cameron with great care and much ability. That Mr. Hely has performed good service and made satisfactory progress during the year in the districts near his station will be seen on perusing the report on his district (Appendix S., page 57). Mr. Frank Lawes, in addition to special assistance given in the matter of compiling native dialects, has rendered very efficient service in native matters generally, besides conducting in a very satisfactory manner the duties of Collector of Customs, Postmaster, &c. He has furnished a report on the Central District, which will be found as Appendix R., page 52; it will well repay perusal.

61. Endeavours have been made to strengthen the position of a number of the leading men in certain tribes, so as to increase their authority and to put on them some responsibility towards the Government. A certain amount of progress has been made in

that direction, but great patience is required in this matter, and it will be long before the position of any Chief is sufficiently strong and authoritative to make him an efficient Government officer. The death of two officers and the illness of others greatly interfered with the efforts of the Government in this work.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Wm. MacGregor.

His Excellency
Sir Henry Wylie Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.I.E.,
Governor of Queensland.

APPENDIX O.

IMPORTS, EXPORTS, NAVIGATION, AND POSTAL.

Imports entered at Port Moresby and Samarai from the 1st July 1889 to the 30th June 1890.

Article.	Port Moresby.		Samarai.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value
Acid, tartaric	40 lb.	£ 10 s. 15 d. 0	—	£ s. d. —	40 lb.	£ 10 s. 15 d. 0
„ muriatic	1 gal. 1 qt.	0 15 0	—	—	1 gal. 1 qt.	0 15 0
„ carbonic	2 gals.	1 0 0	—	—	2 gals.	1 0 0
Anchors	2	22 0 0	2	3 0 0	4	25 0 0
Arrowroot	348 lb.	9 5 0	—	—	348 lb.	9 5 0
Adzes	4 doz.	10 5 0	—	—	4 doz.	10 5 0
Axes	25 1/3 doz.	42 10 0	—	—	25 1/3 doz.	42 10 0
Bags (paper)	10 cwt.	17 10 0	—	—	10 cwt.	17 10 0
Basket ware	1	0 15 0	—	—	1	0 15 0
Beads	10 lb.	1 0 0	321 lb.	20 0 0	331 lb.	21 0 0
Barley	72 bshls.	1 0 0	—	—	72 bshls.	1 0 0
Beer (bottled)	478 gals.	121 15 0	1,154 gals.	299 0 0	1,632 gals.	420 15 0
„ (wood)	80 gals.	32 0 0	—	—	30 gals.	32 0 0
Biscuits	T. C. Q. L. 3 1 2 17	106 5 0	5,990 lb.	99 0 0	T. C. Q. L. 5 5 0 17	205 5 0
„ (sweet)	0 9 0 6	38 15 0	106 lb.	2 10 0	0 10 0 0	41 5 0
Bitters (hop)	—	—	2 gals.	1 10 0	2 gals.	1 10 0
Blacking	1½ doz.	0 5 0	—	—	1½ doz.	0 5 0
Blue	43 lb.	2 0 0	3 lb.	0 3 0	46 lb.	2 3 0
Boats	2	65 0 0	1	44 0 0	3	109 0 0
Boxes	12 pkgs.	34 0 0	—	—	12 pkgs.	34 0 0
Books	4 cases	46 15 0	—	—	4 cases	46 15 0
Boots	126 pairs	49 15 0	278 pairs	96 5 0	404 pairs.	146 0 0
Brandy	34½ gals.	34 15 0	199 gals.	143 15 0	233½ gals.	178 10 0
Brushware	4 pkgs.	15 0 0	—	—	4 pkgs.	15 0 0
Building materials.	—	150 0 0	—	—	—	150 0 0
Butter	758 lb.	70 0 0	4,114 lb.	326 5 0	4,872 lb.	396 5 0
Bungs	—	—	—	0 5 0	—	0 5 0
Candles	483	15 5 0	1,750 lb.	58 5 0	2,233 lb.	73 10 0
Canvas	443 yards	25 0 0	284 yards	32 15 0	727 yds.	57 15 0
Caps (percussion)	20,500	5 15 0	—	—	20,500	5 15 0
Cartridges	400	3 15 0	—	20 0 0	400	23 15 0
Cartridge cases	2,950	13 0 0	—	—	2,950	13 0 0
Cement	4 casks	3 15 0	—	—	4 casks	3 15 0
Cheese	386 lb.	22 10 0	515 lb.	24 5 0	901 lb.	46 15 0
Chain	2½ cwt.	3 0 0	C. Q. L. 5 3 14	5 0 0	C. Q. L. 8 1 14	8 0 0

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Article.	Port Moresby.		Samarai.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Chicory	1 cwt.	5 0 0	—	—	1 cwt.	5 0 0
Cigarette paper	1 pkt.	0 15 0	—	—	3 lb.	1 15 0
Cigarettes	—	—	2 lb.	1 0 0		
Cigars	48 lb.	9 10 0	21 lb.	6 0 0	69 lb.	15 10 0
Clocks & watches	—	7 5 0	—	—	—	7 5 0
Clothing	—	29 0 0	—	—	—	29 0 0
Coal tar	35 gals.	3 0 0	—	—	35 gals.	3 0 0
Cocoa	205½ lb.	40 0 0	12 lb.	2 0 0	217½ lb.	42 0 0
Coffee	1,106½ lb.	84 15 0	765 lb.	67 5 0	187½ lb.	152 0 0
Confectionery	70 lb.	3 0 0	12 lb.	1 0 0	82 lb.	4 0 0
Coke	4 bags	0 10 0	—	—	4 bags	0 10 0
Cordials	47 gals.	35 15 0	8 gals.	3 5 0	55 gals.	39 0 0
Copper nails	—	—	47 lb.	4 15 0	47 lb.	4 15 0
Cornflour	281 lb.	10 10 0	94 lb.	4 0 0	375 lb.	14 10 0
Corks	—	2 5 0	—	—	—	2 5 0
Cream of tartar	6 lb.	0 10 0	98 lb.	8 5 0	104 lb.	8 15 0
Crockery	4 pkgs.	34 10 0	—	0 5 0	4 pkgs.	34 15 0
Curry powder	5 lb.	0 10 0	—	—	5 lb.	0 10 0
Cutlery	—	21 15 0	—	2 15 0	—	24 10 0
Diving gear	—	—	—	2 0 0	—	2 0 0
Doors	24 pairs	49 0 0	—	—	24 pairs	49 0 0
Drapery	—	1,125 15 0	—	266 10 0	—	1,392 5 0
Drugs	—	118 0 0	—	132 0 0	—	250 0 0
Dynamite	2 lb.	0 5 0	—	—	2 lb.	0 5 0
Eggs	6½ doz.	1 0 0	—	—	6½ doz.	1 0 0
Electro ware	—	3 0 0	—	—	—	3 0 0
Engine	1	117 0 0	—	—	1	117 0 0
Essences	1½ doz.	0 15 0	1 doz.	0 5 0	2½ doz.	1 0 0
Fish (dried)	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ (preserved)	—	—	3,000 lb.	133 5 0	3,000 lb.	133 5 0
	T. C. Q. L.		T. C. Q. L.		T. C. Q. L.	
Flour	17 7 1 22	283 5 0	38 14 3 10	572 10 0	56 2 1 4	855 15 0
Fruit (canned)	213 doz. pts.	86 15 0	94 doz. pts.	38 0 0	307 doz. pts.	124 15 0
„ (dried)	360 lb.	12 0 0	1,058 lb.	36 10 0	1,418 lb.	48 10 0
„ (green)	8 cases	8 15 0	—	—	8 cases	8 15 0
„ (salts)	10½ doz.	18 5 0	—	—	10½ doz.	18 5 0
Furniture	7 pkgs.	97 0 0	—	—	7 pkgs.	97 0 0
Geneva and schnapps.	—	—	5 gals.	1 0 0	5 gals.	1 0 0
Gin	2 gals.	1 0 0	8 gals.	3 0 0	10 gals.	4 0 0
Ginger	6 lb.	0 10 0	—	—	6 lb.	0 10 0
Glassware	2 pkgs.	23 15 0	—	2 10 0	2 pkgs.	26 5 0
Glue	85 lb.	4 15 0	—	—	85 lb.	4 15 0

Article.	Port Moresby.		Samarai.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Goats	8	£ 6 s. 0 d. 0	—	£ — s. — d.	8	£ 6 s. 0 d. 0
Guns	5	16 0 0	—	10 10 0	5	26 10 0
Gunpowder	282½ lb.	43 5 0	4 lb.	1 0 0	286½ lb.	44 5 0
Hams and bacon	821 lb.	42 15 0	1,987 lb.	102 15 0	2,808 lb.	145 10 0
Hardware	—	390 10 0	—	300 0 0	—	690 10 0
Hatchets	166 12/12 doz.	144 0 0	8 doz.	9 0 0	175 12/12 doz.	153 0 0
Hose	783 feet	15 0 0	—	—	783 feet	15 0 0
Honey	26 lb.	1 5 0	—	—	26 lb.	1 5 0
Hops	55 lb.	4 10 0	3 lb.	0 5 0	58 lb.	4 15 0
Implements (agricultural).	7 pkgs.	17 15 0	—	—	7 pkgs.	26 15 0
Implements (mining).	—	—	—	9 0 0	—	
Iron (galvanised)	T. C. Q. L. 10 5 3 14	246 10 0	15 cwt.	22 0 0	T. C. Q. L. 11 0 3 14	268 10 0
„ (castings)	2 cwt.	3 10 0	—	—	2 cwt.	3 10 0
Ironmongery	—	143 5 0	—	—	—	143 5 0
Iron hoops	—	—	11½ cwt.	8 15 0	11½ cwt.	8 15 0
Jams	1,715 lb.	48 10 0	3,156 lb.	90 0 0	4,871 lb.	138 10 0
Kerosene	1,108 gals.	71 5 0	200 gals.	24 0 0	1,308 gals.	95 5 0
Knives	138½ doz.	27 0 0	—	—	138½ doz.	27 0 0
Lard	350 lb.	20 0 0	—	—	350 lb.	20 0 0
Leatherware	5 pkgs.	36 5 0	—	0 15 0	5 pkgs.	37 0 0
Limejuice	22 gals.	4 15 0	—	—	22 gals.	4 15 0
Live stock	104	311 10 0	—	—	104	311 10 0
Maccaroni	14 lb.	0 15 0	—	—	14 lb.	0 15 0
Maizena	56 lb.	2 5 0	—	—	56 lb.	2 5 0
Maize	36 bshls.	11 15 0	16 bshls.	4 0 0	52 bshls.	15 15 0
Machines: sawing	1	94 10 0	—	—	1	94 10 0
Machines: sewing	9	40 0 0	—	—	9	40 0 0
Machines: printing	1	76 0 0	—	—	1	76 0 0
Machines: boring	1	2 0 0	—	—	1	2 0 0
Meat (preserved)	19,571 lb.	702 10 0	22,788 lb.	664 5 0	42,359 lb.	1,366 15 0
„ (salt)	27½ cwt.	48 10 0	53,564 lb.	788 0 0	58,602 lb.	836 10 0
„ (extract and potted).	163½ lb.	31 5 0	58½ lb.	18 0 0	222 lb.	49 5 0
Milk	108 doz.	38 15 0	465 doz.	186 5 0	573 doz.	225 0 0
Molasses	28 lb.	0 5 0	3,316 lb.	51 10 0	3,344 lb.	51 15 0
Mustard	105 lb.	7 0 0	—	—	105 lb.	7 0 0
Muntz metal	826 lb.	32 10 0	461 lb.	22 10 0	1,287 lb.	55 0 0
Nails	T. C. Q. L. 2 3 3 11	72 10 0	36 lb.	4 5 0	T. C. Q. L. 3 0 0 19	76 15 0
„	—	—	65 lb.	1 0 0	65 lb.	1 0 0
Nuts	—	—	12 lb.	1 0 0	12 lb.	1 0 0
Oakum	—	3 15 0	56 lb.	2 0 0	56 lb.	5 15 0
Oatmeal	230 lb.	3 5 0	5,306 lb.	68 10 0	5,536 lb.	71 15 0

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Article.	Port Moresby.		Samarai.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Ores	1½ doz.	9 0 0	6 prs.	7 0 0	2½ doz.	16 0 0
Oil	194½ gals.	38 15 0	36½ gals.	9 10 0	231 gals.	48 5 0
Oilman's stores	—	106 5 0	—	4 0 0	—	110 5 0
Onions	C. Q. L. 10 1 8	19 15 0	2 cwt.	4 0 0	C. Q. L. 12 1 8	23 15 0
Paper bags	56 lb.	1 0 0	—	—	56 lb.	1 0 0
Paint	T. C. Q. L. 2 6 0 0	88 15 0	72 lb.	2 0 0	T. C. Q. L. 2 6 3 16	90 15 0
Paper (brown)	28 lb.	0 10 0	182 lb.	3 0 0	211 lb.	3 10 0
Peas and beans	12⅓ bshls.	4 0 0	—	—	12⅓ bshls.	4 0 0
Pearl shell	10 prs.	3 10 0	—	—	10 prs.	3 10 0
Pepper	32 lb.	2 0 0	—	—	32 lb.	2 0 0
Photographic plates.	2 cases	19 5 0	—	—	2 cases	19 5 0
Pickles	39 cases	17 15 0	50 doz.	33 10 0	—	51 5 0
Pipes (clay)	—	—	264 gross	35 0 0	264 gross	35 0 0
„ (wood)	—	—	26 doz.	12 0 0	26 doz.	12 0 0
Pitch	—	—	—	1 0 0	—	1 0 0
Plants	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poultry	—	1 10 0	—	—	—	1 10 0
Potatoes	T. C. Q. L. 1 17 0 21	25 0 0	22 cwt.	17 0 0	T. C. Q. L. 2 19 0 21	42 0 0
„ (preserved)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Printing machines.	2 pkgs.	5 10 0	—	—	2 pkgs.	5 10 0
Puddings (canned).	2 doz.	2 0 0	—	—	2 doz.	2 0 0
Rice	T. C. Q. L. 50 18 0 0	700 0 0	T. C. Q. L. 15 12 3 12	198 5 0	T. C. Q. L. 66 10 3 12	898 5 0
Rockets	6 doz.	10 10 0	—	—	6 doz.	10 10 0
Rope	9 cwt.	35 15 0	C. Q. L. 11 11 4	52 0 0	T. C. Q. L. 1 0 1 4	87 15 0
„ (wire)	—	—	41 lb.	1 5 0	41 lb.	1 5 0
Rum	16 gals.	8 5 0	36 gals.	16 15 0	52 gals.	25 0 0
Sacks	730	28 0 0	984	31 15 0	1,714	59 15 0
„ (corn)	—	—	67⅓ doz.	28 0 0	67⅓ doz.	28 0 0
Sago	126 lb.	2 15 0	77 lb.	1 0 0	203	3 15 0
Salt (coarse)	16¼ cwt.	9 0 0	C. Q. L. 11 1 16	6 15 0	T. C. Q. L. 1 7 3 16	15 15 0
„ (table)	3¼ doz.	1 5 0	—	—	3¼ doz.	1 5 0
Sashes	10 prs.	17 5 0	—	—	10 prs.	17 5 0
Sarsaparilla	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sauce	19½ doz.	15 0 0	15 doz.	12 10 0	34½ doz.	27 10 0
Schnapps	2 gals.	1 10 0	—	—	2 gals.	1 10 0
Sheep	10	16 0 0	10	15 0 0	20	31 0 0
Shot	C. Q. L. 19 3 3	30 5 0	C. Q. L. 3 1 15	5 5 0	C. Q. L. 23 0 18	35 10 0
Soap	T. C. Q. L. 3 3 1 0	64 0 0	13 cwt.	12 5 0	T. C. Q. L. 3 16 1 0	76 5 0

Article.	Port Moresby.		Samarai.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Soda	458 lb.	3 15 0	56 lb.	0 15 0	514 lb.	4 10 0
Soup	153⅓ doz.	91 10 0	108 doz.	48 0 0	261⅓ doz.	139 10 0
Spices	—	—	203 lb.	15 10 0	203 lb.	15 10 0
Spirits (methylated).	142 gals.	24 10 0	82 gals.	12 0 0	224 gals.	36 10 0
„ (liqueurs)	4 gals.	3 10 0	—	—	4 gals.	3 10 0
Stationery	—	34 15 0	—	9 5 0	—	44 0 0
Starch	80 lb.	2 0 0	—	—	80 lb.	2 0 0
	T. C. Q. L.		T. C. Q. L.		T. C. Q. L.	
Sugar	6 14 1 14	199 5 0	10 3 0 17	276 0 0	16 17 2 3	475 5 0
Sundries	—	24 15 0	—	0 5 0	—	25 0 0
Syrups	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tanks	10	53 15 0	—	—	10	53 15 0
Tar	65 gals.	10 10 0	20 gals.	3 10 0	85 gals.	14 0 0
Tea	868 lb.	62 10 0	1,842 lb.	118 0 0	2,710 lb.	180 10 0
Timber	22,002 feet	378 15 0	2,200 feet	32 10 0	24,202 feet	411 5 0
Tinware	—	2 10 0	—	—	—	2 10 0
	T. C. Q. L.		T. C. Q. L.		T. C. Q. L.	
Tobacco	5 16 1 8½	771 15 0	3 14 0 22	502 15 0	9 10 2 4½	1,274 10 0
Turpentine	23 gals.	5 5 0	—	—	23 gals.	5 5 0
Twine	60 hanks	4 5 0	—	0 15 0	60 hanks.	5 0 0
Type	1 pkg.	4 0 0	—	—	1 pkg.	4 0 0
Varnish	7 gals.	5 5 0	—	—	7 gals.	5 5 0
Vaseline	5 lb.	0 15 0	—	—	5 lb.	0 15 0
	C. Q. L.		C. Q. L.		T. C. Q. L.	
Vegetables (tinned).	6 3 4	29 0 0	19 3 15	49 5 0	1 6 2 19	78 5 0
„ (fresh)	2 cases	1 0 0	3 cwt.	4 0 0	4 cwt.	5 0 0
Vestas	62½ gross	38 0 0	202 gross	147 10 0	264½ gross	185 10 0
Vinegar	79½ gals.	12 5 0	34 gals.	7 0 0	113½ gals.	19 5 0
Wads (gun)	—	2 15 0	—	—	—	2 15 0
Waters (aërated)	49 doz.	11 10 0	10 doz.	2 0 0	59 doz.	13 10 0
Wheat	12 bshls.	2 10 0	—	—	12 bshls.	2 10 0
Whisky	62 gals.	46 15 0	258 gals.	153 15 0	[illegible] gals.	200 10 0
Wine (sparkling)	2½ gals.	4 15 0	—	—	[illegible] gals.	4 15 0
„	704½ gals.	160 0 0	100 gals.	53 10 0	804½ gals.	213 10 0
Wire netting	750 yds.	15 15 0	—	0 10 0	750 yds.	16 5 0
	C. Q. L.				C. Q. L.	
„ rigging	1 0 5	3 5 0	—	—	1 0 5	3 5 0
Wooden ware	—	35 10 0	—	—	—	35 10 0
Total		9,305 10 0		6,798 13 0		16,104 3 0

H.M. Customs, Port Moresby,
12th August 1890.

F. E. LAWES,
Collector of Customs.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

EXPORTS FROM THE POSSESSION.

Exports from Port Moresby and Samarai from the 1st July 1889 to the 30th June 1890.

Article.	Port Moresby.		Samarai.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Bêche-de-Mer	16 tons 10 cwt.	665 0 0	53 tons 15 cwt.	4,017 0 0	70 tons 5 cwt.	4,682 0 0
Birds	2 cases	29 0 0	—	—	2 cases	29 0 0
Brandy	8 gals.	5 0 0	—	—	8 gals.	5 0 0
Cocoanuts	—	—	1,800	5 0 0	1,800	5 0 0
Copra	—	—	43 tons	250 0 0	43 tons	250 0 0
Curiosities	4 pkgs.	55 0 0	—	—	4 pkgs.	55 0 0
Doors	1 pkg.	1 10 0	—	—	1 pkg.	1 10 0
Drapery	2 pkgs.	28 0 0	—	—	2 pkgs.	28 0 0
Diving pump	—	—	1	100 0 0	1	100 0 0
Natural History specimens.	—	40 0 0	—	—	—	40 0 0
Gum	—	—	2 tons	30 0 0	2 tons	30 0 0
Meats (salt)	1,600 lbs.	27 5 0	—	—	1,600 lbs.	27 5 0
Pearl-shell	—	—	12 tons 5 cwt.	1,050 0 0	12 tons 5 cwt.	1,050 0 0
Sundries	6 pkgs.	50 0 0	—	—	6 pkgs.	50 0 0
Turtle-shell	3 cwt.	90 0 0	12 lbs.	6 0 0	3 cwt. 12 lbs.	96 0 0
Wallaby skins	1 bale	5 0 0	—	—	1 bale	5 0 0
Wine	8 gals.	1 10 0	—	—	8 gals.	1 10 0
		997 5 0		5,458 0 0		6,455 5 0

H.M. Customs, Port Moresby,
8th August 1890.

F. E. LAWES,
Collector of Customs.

Statement of Navigation, showing the Nationality, Number, and Tonnage of Foreign-going Merchant Vessels entered and cleared at the Ports of the Possession (Ships of War not included).

Nationality.	Vessels.	Entered. 1st July 1889 to 30th June 1890.		Cleared. 1st July 1889 to 30th June 1890.	
		Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
	PORT MORESBY.				
British	Sailing	19	1,925	18	1,752
	Steam	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Total	19	1,925	18	1,752
Other Nations		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

Nationality.	Vessels.	Entered. 1st July 1889 to 30th June 1890. Number.	Entered. 1st July 1889 to 30th June 1890. Tonnage.	Cleared. 1st July 1889 to 30th June 1890. Number.	Cleared. 1st July 1889 to 30th June 1890. Tonnage.
	SAMARAI.				
British - -	Sailing - -	26	1,802	27	1,768
	Steam - -	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil
	Total - -	26	1,802	27	1,768
Other Nations - -	- - - -	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Total - -	26	1,802	27	1,768
	TOTALS.				
Port Moresby - -	- - - -	19	1,925	18	1,752
Samarai - -	- - - -	26	1,802	27	1,768
	Total - -	45	3,727	45	3,520

Vessels—Coastwise.

	PORT MORESBY.				
British - -	Sailing - -	25	1,264	28	1,578
	Steam - -	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Total - -	25	1,264	28	1,578
Other Nations - -	- - - -	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	SAMARAI.				
British - -	Sailing - -	22	906	23	1,189
	Steam - -	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Total - -	22	906	23	1,189
Other Nations -	- - - -	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	TOTALS.				
Port Moresby - -	- - - -	25	1,264	28	1,578
Samarai - -	- - - -	22	906	23	1,189
	Total - -	47	2,170	51	2,767

H.M. Customs, Port Moresby,
11th August 1890.

F. E. LAWES,
Collector of Customs.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Return of the Number of Letters, Packets, and Newspapers received and despatched by the Post Offices at Port Moresby and Samarai from 1st July 1889 to 30th June 1890.

	Received.			Despatched.		
	Letters.	Packets.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Packets.	Newspapers.
Port Moresby - -	2,556	102	5,219	2,123	77	582
Samarai - -	610	9	1,625	463	7	8
Total - -	3,166	111	6,844	2,586	84	590

Port Moresby,
8th August 1890.

F. E. LAWES,
Postmaster.

APPENDIX P.

REVENUE.

Statement of Revenue collected at British New Guinea from the 1st July 1889 to the 30th June 1890.

Head of Revenue.	Amount.	Total.
CUSTOMS REVENUE—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Import duties - - - - - -	2,851 17 9	
Bond dues - - - - - -	38 16 6	
Sale of customs forms - - - - -	2 16 1	
		2,893 10 4
GOLDFIELDS REVENUE—		
Miners' rights - - - - - -	8 15 0	
Business licenses - - - - -	12 0 0	
		20 15 0
FEES, FINES, AND LICENSES—		
Shipping Fees - - - - - -	4 10 0	
Central Court fees - - - - -	3 0 0	
Fines - - - - - - -	41 10 0	
Lighter licenses - - - - -	1 0 0	
Custom House agents' licenses - - - -	10 0 0	
		60 0 0
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS—		
Refundments, &c. - - - - -	28 14 0	
Passenger fares, schooner "Hygeia" - - -	12 14 0	
		41 8 0
Total - - - -	—	3,015 13 4

Brisbane,
16th August 1890.

A. MUSGRAVE,
Treasurer, British New Guinea.

EXPENDITURE.

Statement of Expenditure from 1st July 1889 to 30th June 1890.

Appropriation as per British New Guinea Ordinance No. IV. of 1889.	Particulars.	Expenditure.	Balances.	
			Unexpended.	In excess of Appropriation.
£ s. d.	SALARIES—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	CIVIL LIST ESTABLISHMENT—			
1,500 0 0	Administrator	1,500 0 0		
300 0 0	Private Secretary	300 0 0		
1,000 0 0	Judicial Officer	1,000 0 0		
500 0 0	Government Secretary	500 0 0		
	TEMPORARY AND PROVISIONAL—			
500 0 0	Resident Magistrate, Eastern Division	500 0 0		
300 0 0	Assistant Resident Magistrate, Eastern Division, and Warden, Louisiade Goldfield.	240 16 8	59 3 4	
500 0 0	Resident Magistrate, Western Division	397 4 5	102 15 7	
300 0 0	Collector of Customs, Port Moresby	300 0 0		
275 0 0	Government Printer	275 0 0		
250 0 0	Government agent at Rigo	236 17 10	13 2 2	
250 0 0	Gaoler and Overseer	244 15 0	5 5 0	
200 0 0	Sub-Collector of Customs, Samarai	187 4 7	12 15 5	
150 0 0	Government Storekeeper	—	150 0 0	
	VESSELS AND BOATS—			
1,500 0 0	Schooner "Hygeia"	1,802 14 5	—	302 14 5
250 0 0	Cutter "Maino"	205 18 5	44 1 7	
150 0 0	Whaleboat, Port Moresby	158 3 6	—	
100 0 0	Whaleboat, Samarai	83 3 8	16 16 4	
350 0 0	Other boats and maintenance	314 3 0	35 17 0	
	MISCELLANEOUS—			
1,500 0 0	Allowances (house and travelling)	2,548 3 2	—	1,048 3 2
1,000 0 0	Armed constabulary and prisons	841 10 10	158 9 2	
100 0 0	Judicial	17 0 2	82 19 10	
500 0 0	Printing and stationery	195 3 9	304 16 3	
175 0 0	Library and scientific	85 19 6	89 0 6	
750 0 0	Buildings	1,144 19 3	—	394 19 3
200 0 0	Medical and sanitary	69 15 5	130 4 7	
100 0 0	Presents to natives	27 0 5	72 19 7	
300 0 0	Agricultural	137 11 9	162 8 3	
2,000 0 0	Unforeseen	1,661 19 7	338 0 5	
15,000 0 0	Total	14,975 5 4	1,778 15 0	1,754 0 4

SPECIAL APPROPRIATION.

Amount handed over by late Special Commissioner.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1,512 13 6	EXPLORATION— Expenses in connexion with Fly River Expedition -	642 14 11	869 18 7
1,512 13 6	Total - - - - - -	642 14 11	869 18 7

A. MUSGRAVE,
Treasurer, British New Guinea.

Brisbane,
August 16, 1890.

CERTIFICATE OF AUDIT.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of British New Guinea for the financial year ending on 30th June 1890, and find as follows:—

Revenue.

The total revenue paid by the local receivers to the Treasurer of British New Guinea during and on account of the financial year 1889–90, amounted to 3,015*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* This sum has been handed over to the Queensland Treasury, and appears below in "Amounts available for Distribution." The revenue has been derived chiefly from Customs, only 122*l.* 3*s.* having been obtained from other sources. The Treasurer has authenticated his statement by producing to me a cash book, some ships' manifests, and Custom House entries, also a cash book kept by the Collector of Customs, Port Moresby. The cash book kept by the Sub-Collector of Customs at Samarai was not produced. With these data the audit is far from exhaustive, and therefore unsatisfactory, as any but a local audit of revenue accounts must necessarily be.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the financial year 1889–90, amounted to 14,975*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* The payments, with the exception of a few trifling discrepancies, have been correctly computed, and were supported by duly certified and acquitted vouchers, except in two instances, in which the cheques were produced to me before payment, and the receipts will be furnished when returned by the payees.

Amount handed over by the late Special Commissioner.

It having been agreed by the contributing Colonies that the balance handed over by the late Special Commissioner should be

expended in further explorations in British New Guinea, the sum mentioned in the certificate of audit for the previous year, viz., 1,466*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*, and a sum of 45*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* obtained from the same source and retained to meet some outstanding accounts afterwards included in the expenditure for the year 1888–89, altogether 1,512*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* has been placed to a special account; of this, 642*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* has been expended, leaving 869*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* still available.

Contributions in Aid.

The following contributions have been received from the guaranteeing Colonies:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
From New South Wales to 30th June 1890 - - -	5,000	0	0
From Victoria to 31st May 1890	4,583	6	8
From Queensland to 30th June 1890 - - - - -	5,000	0	0
	14,583	6	8
Amount due to 30th June 1890:—			
Victoria - - - -	416	13	4

Amounts available for Distribution.

The amounts available for distribution between the guaranteeing Colonies, in terms of paragraphs Nos. 2, 3, and 4 of the Second Schedule of the British New Guinea (Queensland) Act are as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Local revenue—			
1888–89 - - -	2,679	11	10
1889–90 - - -	3,015	13	4
Contributions by Western Australia—			
1888–89 - - -	161	16	9
1889–90 - - -	161	16	9
Unexpended balances of contributions from guaranteeing Colonies—			
1888–89 - - -	1,313	15	3
1889–90 - - -	24	14	8
	7,357	8	7

No distribution of the above has been made, as it is understood that correspondence is now going on with a view to expending a portion of the amount in supplementing the annual

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subsidy granted by the Imperial Government for the working expenses of the Government steamer "Merrie England."

Separate certificates of audit have been given for the Imperial expenditure, viz.:—

"*Merrie England.*"

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Repairs and alterations -				959	5	6
Purchase of launch -				694	6	4
Maintenance to 31st March 1890 -	5,375	15	8			
Less sundry credits -	221	9	6			
				5,154	6	2
Maintenance, quarter ending 30th June 1890 -	2,057	5	8			
Less sundry credits -	89	7	5			
				1,967	18	3
				8,775	16	3

E. DESHON,
Auditor General.

Department of Audit,
Brisbane, 23rd September 1890.

APPENDIX R.

Report of the Assistant Resident Magistrate for the Central Division.

Government Offices, Port Moresby, B.N.G.,
15th August, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, for your Honour's information, to furnish the following report for the year ending 30th June 1890, on that part of the Possession which lies between the 145th and 148th degrees of E. long., and constitutes the Court of Petty Sessions for the central district or division.

2. *Natives.*—The natives in this district, especially in the vicinity of Port Moresby, have passed through a year of very great scarcity. They have in some places had a severe struggle to obtain sufficient food to keep themselves alive. Deaths from starvation have been reported (mostly of very young and old people) at other places, but the dearth of food was most felt in the Rigo district. There the villages were in some instances broken up, as the inhabitants wandered away to search for food. Pari,

Vapukori, Borebada, and Boera, and other neighbouring coast villages endured much privation, and had to depend for months almost wholly on their fisheries, although they are not especially skilful at this industry. This famine was caused by the drought of the two previous years.

The Government relieved the Rigo district by contributing food and trade. Those who were able to do so had to work for an allowance of food and tobacco, whilst those who were too young or infirm were supplied with a certain quantity free. A fund was raised by the Rev. W. G. Lawes for the relief of those in the immediate neighbourhood of Port Moresby, and subscribed to by all the European residents.

To the westward, from Redscar Bay to the Gulf of Papua, the people were better off, but even for some of them, if they occupy dry country, it has also been a year of unusual trial. They generally, however, grow more food than is sufficient for their subsistence, and barter some of their surplus. To add to the troubles of those near Port Moresby, the "Hiri," or trading voyage for sago to the west, turned out a failure for most of them. The people of Pari started earlier than their usual date in September, hoping to return by the first breath of the north-west monsoon. Venturing back too soon, they were washed ashore at Maiva, and all their cargo was destroyed. They then, however, went again to the westward and refilled the canoes; but one of these foundered in the second journey homewards. Vapukori lost both "lakatois," and the Port Moresby people had to jettison a large proportion of their cargo. Borobada and Boera were likewise unfortunate. These losses are a serious matter, as each "lakatoi" holds on an average from 25 to 30 tons of sago, and in addition to its value as a food, it is a common article of barter besides. I regret in this connexion to mention the total wreck of one Maiva trading canoe with her crew of eight natives, who were all drowned.

3. *Larceny.*—As a consequence of the famine, cases of theft have been prevalent. Children who were abandoned by their parents wandered into other people's gardens and stole things out of them. The native punishment for stealing food, especially in hard times, unfortunately, is death. In nearly every case of murder brought before the courts this year theft has been the sole reason. Apart from these graver offences, a certain number of cases of petty larceny have also been before the court. Most of these came from Rigo district, chiefly because a Government agent being stationed there with constabulary powers, he could take prompter cognizance of complaints. Fortunately the present season has been a favourable one, consequently the crops are good, and native food is again fairly plentiful.

4. *Murders.*—There have been 26 cases of murder brought before the court. Most of these happened at the beginning of the year. I am glad to be able to report that the natives are now beginning to realise that murders will not be passed over by the Government, and are beginning themselves to arrest and hand over criminals to

justice instead of resorting to the use of the spear. I am pleased at being able to state that the long-standing feud between Maiva and Kivori appears to have ended since your Honour's visit to that district. The Maivans have lately been in here, and report that they and the people of Kivori now interchange friendly visits with each other.

5. *Prisoners.*—46 prisoners in all have been confined in the gaol at Port Moresby during the past year, 40 of whom were natives. Five of the native prisoners, whose sentences were commuted from capital punishment, it was thought desirable to transfer to the second gaol in the Possession at Samarai. 27 persons were released at the expiration of their terms, and two escaped from prison, but were recaptured. A sickly state prevailed amongst the prisoners in July and August of 1889, but their health subsequently has been good, and together with the Papuan boat's crew they have performed a great deal of useful work in and about the township, such as making roads, renewing fences, building boathouse, making stone jetty, preparing site, &c., for the new gaol, besides other duties—weeding pathways, discharging Government goods from vessels, assisting in coaling the steamer "Merrie England," &c., &c.

The prisoners are always employed at outdoor work from about 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., one hour being allowed at noon for dinner. They do not work on Sundays or on Saturday afternoons. They get three meals a day, and are allowed a little tobacco. Their rations consist of rice, biscuits, and meat, with local vegetables when procurable. Latterly fresh vegetables have been constantly supplied to them. Two warders under the head gaoler superintend their work.

Divine service is held by one of the native mission students of the London Missionary Society every Sunday at the gaol.

The maximum number of prisoners in the gaol at any one time was 17, and the minimum number nine.

6. *Wider Intercourse among Natives.*—So far as the natives of this district are concerned progress during the year has been satisfactory. They have begun to understand our institutions better; they avail themselves more and more of the courts and our mediation to settle disputes; and they appreciate the friendly intercourse that has sprung up between them and natives of other places, with whom previously they had hardly held any dealings.

The Saroa and Rigo people now fearlessly go to the villages on the Kemp-Welch river, a proceeding that they were never known to take before. Kapakapa people have also been to Aroma, and Aroma people continually come to Port Moresby. These visits are mostly for the purpose of trading. This is quite a new feature in native life in these parts, and very encouraging as to the native policy. No foreigners have been molested in this district during the past year. Several prospectors and collectors explored and travelled inland from different points during the year, and everywhere they were treated with kindness and attention by the natives.

7. *Public Roads.*—One of the most useful works done during the past year has been the making of the road from Port Moresby to Aroma. This work, commenced at the beginning of the year by the late Government agent at Rigo, was a great help to the inhabitants of the district during the late famine, since all natives in the vicinity willing to work were employed on its construction. The road is now completed from Tupuselei to the Kemp-Welch river above Kalo. From Tupuselei it runs through Konebada, Vadili, Veiburi, Manukoro, Bono, thence to Rigo station, a distance of some 25 miles. From Rigo station eastward it goes through all the principal villages to the Kemp-Welch river. A suitable crossing through this large stream proved difficult to find, but the present Government agent has selected a fording with a depth of only 2 feet of water in the south-east season. Roads have also been cut from Rigo station to Saroa and Rigo villages, and to the sea coast village of Kapakapa. It will be practicable in a short time by these roads to travel on horseback without difficulty from Port Moresby to Kerupunu (Hood's Lagoon).

8. *Cocoanut Plantation.*—Another useful work begun in the past year is the formation of a cocoanut plantation at Daugo, one of the Fisherman Islands, close to Port Moresby. A contract was entered into in December last with Mr. R. Hunter for planting 5,000 nuts. These nuts were mostly obtained from the Gulf of Papua, being better and larger than those that could be procured in the neighbourhood. They were placed under shade in a nursery, but when properly sprouted it was found to be too late in the season to plant out the whole number. Some 1,500 of the most vigorous young plants were, however, set out in pits excavated to the extent of one cubic yard on a Ceylon system. The remainder were left in the nursery to await the following wet season. Those planted out have, however, thriven well, owing to the exceptionally wet weather in the south-east monsoon of this year, only two of the above 1,500 having died. Those left in the nursery are also thriving well. Owing to the formation of the island the plantation has been divided into three separate blocks. The first plot, already partly planted, is on the north east corner of the island. The larger plot will be on the west and south-west portions of the island. A good track, 6 feet wide, connecting the two future groves, has been made across the whole length of the island. By the beginning of the coming wet season all the 5,000 nuts will have been planted out.

9. *Gardens, &c.*—A small botanical garden, with an area of some three acres, has been fenced and laid out near to Government House. It has been planted with certain fruit trees, coffee, jute, millet, ground nuts, maize, and several species of vegetables, &c., &c. The trees suffered severely from grasshoppers, which swarmed during the late drought. The growth of the plants has on the whole, however, been very encouraging, especially in the case of the millet and maize. There is an abundant spring above the garden, which slopes gently from the foot of the coast range in a south-westerly direction, and is well drained and easily irrigated.

It is also well sheltered from the south-east monsoon. A useful food plantation has also been established at Rigo station, which promises to contribute valuable supplies of vegetables for natives, constables, prisoners, &c. Fencing, clearing, and many other minor improvements were effected at this Government post by the late Mr. George Hunter, who filled the office of Government agent there during the year under review.

10. *Gaol.*—A new gaol has been commenced at Port Moresby, more especially intended for native prisoners confined under long sentences. The walls and divisions will be of strong red mangrove beams, on which will be placed a ceiling, also of the same material. Over this there will be a roof of galvanised iron, sheltering, but not attached to, the main building. This will contain eight cells, 10 feet by 10 feet, floored with hard wood. The ground round the prison has been thoroughly cleared and a sufficient number of drains cut to relieve the ground of surface water in the rainy season. The site chosen is on the south side of the township of Granville West, and is a gently sloping one. The present prison, or "lock-up," is a small wooden and galvanised iron structure, containing three cells 10 feet by 10 feet, and was erected during the Protectorate, but not intended for other than short-sentenced prisoners.

11. *Fencing and Stock.*—About 3 miles of wire fencing round the Government paddocks at Port Moresby has been renewed; the original fence was put up during the Protectorate. A new and improved fence of wire netting has also been placed round the garden at Ilimo Cottage, Port Moresby, which is used for "quarters" for one of the Government officers. The increase in the number of Government horses and cattle has been satisfactory during the past year. The growth of the young stock has been rapid, and the breeding animals show good condition and are now thoroughly acclimatised. The conscientious care of this, as well as all other Government property entrusted to the charge of the overseer and head gaoler, Mr. D. Gleeson, deserves distinct recognition.

12. *Boathouse.*—A roomy boathouse of local material, viz., mangrove framing and nipa-palm thatch, has been built at Granville West, and supplied with two sets of hardwood rails carrying cradles for launching the boats, &c.

13. *Jetty.*—The construction of a stone jetty has been begun next to the coalshed, Granville West, close to the Government offices. It will shortly be finished, and prove of much use in unloading or shipping goods at low water when the fringing reef within the harbour is difficult of approach.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. LAWES,
Assistant Resident Magistrate.

His Honour
Sir Wm. MacGregor, M.D., K.C.M.G., &c.
Administrator of British New Guinea.

APPENDIX S.

Report of the Resident Magistrate for the Eastern Division.

SIR, Samarai, 8th August 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Honour's information, on the affairs of the Eastern Division of the Possession during the period 1st July 1889 to 30th June 1890.

Native Affairs.

It is gratifying to be able to report that during the period under notice the state of the natives has been, on the whole, most satisfactory. They have, over a great portion of the district, acquired great confidence in the Government, and great numbers visit Samarai from the several districts of East Cape and Milne Bay, from the islands to the eastward, Sariba, Sidea, and Basilaki, the Engineer Group and Teste Island, and from the districts between this point and Suau. Three cases only of murder have come under my notice—one at Lelehudi, where a native, by name Tuguletauiohi, killed a woman named Bohinori in March last. This does not appear to have been a premeditated murder. The man and woman quarrelled over some garden work, and the woman struck the man on the head with a stick; he retaliated with a stone, which struck her on the breast and killed her—this is the man's own statement. I have as yet been unable to find that any other natives were present. He is now under arrest. A case of murder at Nuakata and one at Ahioma have been reported lately; but I have not as yet secured the culprits. Two white men, Albert Kickbush and his mate Neilson, were murdered in November last at Murua (Woodlark Island); three of the murderers have been arrested and are now awaiting trial. Frank Rochfort and James McTier were murdered by natives of Cloudy Bay in August of last year. The case did not come before me, although in my district, but was dealt with from Port Moresby, to which it was more convenient.

In June of last year a man, by name J. J. Brown, reported that he had come into collision with some natives at Misima (St. Aignan), and had in self-defence killed three. Brown surrendered himself at Port Moresby in February of this year, and was remanded to this district so that the case might be investigated. It, however, was found that Mr. Brown's statement was false, and that he had trumped up the story for the sake of notoriety. Davy, a native of Fiji, was in April sentenced to four months' imprisonment for destroying native houses at the village of Tabegana, at the east end of Sudest; and a native of Manilla, by name Tom Manilla, committed for trial in February for the murder of a native of Welle Island, in Dawson Straits, has since been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. These cases are mentioned here on account of natives being concerned in them.

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Among the various tribes in the best known parts of the district good order prevails; in most parts intertribal quarrels are things of the past, and I have heard of no case of pilfering from gardens, which offence was very prevalent before the declaration of Sovereignty.

Yakoba and Komadoa, native agents at Mita and Porotona respectively, have been of use to me, but neither of them appear to have much influence outside their immediate vicinity. The two districts, however, are a very useful basis from which to work surrounding tribes.

During July last year there was some friction caused between myself and the natives of Maiwara through the actions of two natives who live on Aleford Island. These men are by way of being missionaries—that is, they are offshoots from the Killerton Island Mission Station, who have taken upon themselves to become teachers and law givers to the people. They are not recognised by the London Mission Society. They threatened the Maiwara people that if they did not come to church (?) I would come up and shoot some of them, and put others in the gaol at Samarai. The Maiwara people then said that if I went there they would kill me. On hearing of this I went to Maiwara and found them all armed, but they made no attempt to attack me. I explained to them that the self-styled teachers had no right to use the name of the Government as a means of obtaining congregations, and that the Government certainly would not use compulsion to make them attend church. I severely cautioned the offenders. The Maiwara people have since been on the best of terms with us, and come to Samarai in considerable numbers. The district is a large one, and would be a very good field for a competent teacher.

At the eastern end of the district (St. Aignan and the Louisiades) I am sorry to say native matters have not been satisfactory. On St. Aignan and Sudest cases of pilfering from miners are everyday occurrences, though it must be said that the temptation of an open tent is a great one to a native, but it is very hard on the miners, who at the best of times make but a bare living, to return from work and find their camps pillaged. The miners themselves have acted very fairly on the whole to the natives, and one good point in their favour is that never since the commencement of the gold workings in this district have I heard of a single case of tampering with native women.

A large number of natives are employed in the various boats fishing for bêche-de-mer, &c. During the period in which a correct registration has been in force October, 1889, to 30th June 1890, 250 natives have been shipped, and on the 30th June 61 were still employed. The strict carrying out of the Native Employment Ordinance has been a great assistance in gaining the confidence of the natives, although I should like to see some slight additions to the regulations, principally one which would provide against natives in one magisterial district being shipped for probable service in another. Unless boat articles are carried, or it is made law that the natives must be paid off at the port of

shipment, abuses are almost certain to occur. Taking it on the whole, the employers of labour are a fair-dealing class, and treat the natives well, although of course they are quite ready, as a rule, to pay as little as possible for their labour. For this reason I have made a rule that natives must be paid in kind, and that the goods must be inspected by the officer before whom the payments take place, so that the natives may get a fair return for their services.

In October of last year a quarrel occurred between several natives of Nawabu in Farm Bay, in which three men were killed and several wounded. I inquired into the matter and reported thereon in December last, but have taken no further action, as both the instigators were killed and the tribe had settled down quietly. There has been no further trouble with them.

Food has been very plentiful in the district during the past 12 months, and there is every chance of this satisfactory state of things continuing.

Administration of Justice.

During the period the following cases have come under my jurisdiction :—

1889, July 25.—Assaulting a native, fourteen days' imprisonment.
„ December 15.—Supplying liquor to South Sea Islander, fined 20*l.*
1890, January 15. — Murder, sentenced on 1st July, 10 years' imprisonment.
„ February 17.—Disorderly conduct, one month's imprisonment.
„ February 17.—Supplying native arms, one month's imprisonment.
„ March 4.—Murder, on remand.
„ April 10.—Murder, discharged.
„ April 14. — Supplying dynamite to a native, one month's imprisonment.
„ April 4. — Wilful destruction of property, four months' imprisonment.
„ May 28.—Assault, discharged.

Your Honour will observe that there has not been any case as yet of liquor being supplied to an aboriginal ; the only case being one in which it was given to a South Sea Islander. In one case a revolver was given to a native of Rabi.

During the year 12 prisoners were received into the gaol, and nine discharged. There were serving sentences on 30th June the following :—

1889, July 25. — Kamaramarava, murder, 10 years' penal servitude, transferred from Port Moresby.
„ May 30.—Misikaro, murder, five years' penal servitude, transferred from Port Moresby.

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1890, July 1.—Tom Manilla, murder, 10 years.
„ July 1.—Tuguletauioho, murder, on remand.
1889, October 22.—Bokalakava, murder, 10 years' penal servitude, transferred from Port Moresby.
„ October 22.—Gaibori, murder, 10 years' penal servitude, transferred from Port Moresby.
1890, April 4.—Davy, Fiji, wilful destruction of property, four months.

Firearms Permits.

During the year I have issued firearms permits to the following persons:—

For period ending 31st December 1889.

No. 10. 1889, August 10.—Dick, native of Malayta, 1 rifle, 1 revolver.
No. 11. „ August 21.—Joseph Zambi, native of Mauritius, 1 revolver.
No. 12. „ August 21.—Serillo Resto, native of Manilla, 1 gun, 1 revolver.
No. 13. „ September 21.—Willy, native of Tanna, 1 rifle.
No. 14. „ December 12.—*George, native of Mari, 1 rifle.
No. 15. „ December 12.—*Moses, native of Oba, 1 rifle.
No. 16. „ December 12.—*Willy, native of Lifu, 1 rifle.
No. 17. „ December 12.—*A. de Simon, native of Singapore, 1 rifle.
No. 18. „ December 12.—*Charlie, native of Lifu, 1 rifle.

For period ending 31st December 1890.

No. 19. 1890, January 1.—Serillo Resto, native of Manilla, 1 rifle, 1 gun, 1 revolver.
No. 20. „ January 17.—Joseph, native of Manilla, 1 rifle, 1 gun.
No. 21. „ January 18.—Dick, native of Malayta, 1 rifle, 1 revolver.
No. 22. „ January 23.—Ah Gim, native of China, 1 rifle, 1 gun.
No. 23. „ January 23.—Sulieman, native of Manilla, 1 gun.
No. 24. „ January 23.—Wm. Trass, native of Fiji, 1 rifle.
No. 25. „ January 24.—Peter Manilla, native of Manilla, 1 rifle, 1 revolver.
No. 26. „ January 24.—Joseph Zambi, native of Mauritius, 1 revolver.
No. 27. „ February 18.—Francis Augustus, native of Manilla, 1 rifle.

No. 28. 1890, February 18. — Frank Murray, native of Maré, 1 rifle.
No. 29. „ March 13.—Ah See, native of China, 1 gun.
No. 30. „ April 13. — Francis Augustine, native of Manilla, 1 gun.
No. 31. „ June 2. — Joe, native of Erromanga, 1 revolver.

Those names marked thus * are those of men who held permits during the time they were employed by Signor Loria, who entered into a bond for their good behaviour and to return the permits to the nearest Government officer upon any of them leaving his service. I forwarded the bond to the Government Secretary, and I believe the terms have been complied with.

Mining.

During the period mining matters have been very quiet, very little gold being got. The population of either place has not during the past 12 months exceeded 150, and now at St. Aignan there are about 50, and at Sudest 70. The health of the men has been fairly good on both islands during the past six months. It is impossible to give any idea of the amount of gold exported, as vessels clear direct from this point for Cooktown, viâ the islands, and do not declare the quantity of gold they have on board. Indeed, the men generally keep the knowledge of what gold they have to themselves, and the masters of the vessels consequently cannot tell how much they actually have on board.

In June last year 37 men passed through Samarai to Normanby Island for prospecting purposes, and some few went by chance means from Misima and Tagula. They found only faint colours, and suffered very much in health, many of them dying. I sent 15 away to Queensland by H.M. ships ill and destitute, and the prospecting was abandoned until lately, when a party of four have been again prospecting with little success. No work has been done on any other islands since my last report, and it appears likely that Misima will be abandoned in a few months' time.

Accidents and Deaths.

Deaths have, I am sorry to say, been frequent during the past 12 months. Those which have been reported are detailed below:—

1889, July 25.—Nadieman, Gigia, bursting gun.
„ July 31.—Jas Nolan, Normanby Island, fever; prospector.
„ August 6.—Harry Hotson, Brooker Island, fever; prospector.
„ September 5.—Pat. Brennan, Spike Island, fever; prospector.

1889, September 11.—Nicholas Wallace, Normanby Island, fever; prospector.
„ September 12.—Samuel Sparks, Normanby Island, fever; prospector.
„ September 18.—Peter Christophersen, Samarai, fever; prospector.
„ August 18.—Thomas Reilly, Sudest, fever.
„ August 25.—Martin Lalor, Sudest, fever.
„ September 1.—Name unknown, Sudest, fever.
„ September 12.—Edward Trevor, Sudest, old age.
„ October 4.—Thos. Williams, Sudest, fever, on "Wanganui."
„ October 18.—Mathew Bell, Sudest, fever.
„ December 26.—Jas. Armstrong, St. Aignan, fever.
„ December 29.—George Harris, Sudest, fever.
1890, January 8.—Robert Wilson, Sudest, fever.

In addition to these, several deaths which were not reported occurred at St. Aignan. The following are the names, but in many cases the Christian names could not be obtained nor the dates of their deaths:—

One old man name unknown, Morant, Mackenzie, James Gay, Jas. Harris, one man name unknown.

A party of four men died on the north coast of Normanby, of fever, about November last. Nothing was known of them until some weeks afterwards. The name of one was H. H. Robinson, of No. 6, Commercial Square, Lewes, Sussex, England, according to a pocket book found at their old camp. A passenger ticket, in the name of Peter Nichols was found also. Of the other two men I never learnt anything. This matter was fully reported on by me in a letter to the Government Secretary, dated 2nd January.

The total amount of customs duties collected at this point, less rebates, during the year ending 30th June has been 1,434*l.* 5*s.* 6¼*d.*

The total imports amounted to a value of 6,798*l.* 13*s.* (*Vide* Appendix O.)

Total exports, 5,458*l.* (*Vide* Appendix O.)

Return of letters, packets, and newspapers received and despatched. (*Vide* Appendix O.)

Statement of navigation. (*Vide* Appendix O.)

I have, &c.

BINGHAM A. HELY.

APPENDIX T.

Report by Baron Ferd. von Mueller, K.C.M.G., M. and Ph.D., F.R.S., on Botanical Specimens.

The access to our knowledge of the Papuan Flora, derived from Sir William MacGregor's collections in 1890, has been again important. Foremost as a result we have learnt from these contributions that a considerable number of Australian species of plants, which, as such, were hitherto regarded as quite endemic, are likewise indigenous to the vicinity of the Mai-Kussa and Wasi-Kussa in New Guinea. Thus they occur precisely opposite to Cape York, from whence the seeds may have been carried across by migratory birds or perhaps by some other agencies. These, otherwise only Australian, plants may, therefore, not really belong to the primitive vegetation of New Guinea, though they are now established in such a way as not to admit of distinguishing them in regard to their nativity from the great bulk of the lowland species, whether truly Papuan or simultaneously also Malayan. The occurrence has already been demonstrated before of the following lowland plants of specific Australian type in various parts of New Guinea:—*Eupomatia laurina, Kennedya retusa, Acacia Simsii, A. holosericea, Eucalyptus clavigera, Tristania suaveolens, Pimelea cornucopiæ, Stackhousia viminea, Passiflora aurantia, Panax Murrayi, Notothixos subaureus, Grevillea gibbosa, Banksia dentata, Wedelia spilanthoides, Clerodendron floribundum, Josephinia grandiflora, Hypoxis hygrometrica, Geitonoplesium cymosum, Arthropodium strictum, Smilax australis, Xerotes Banksii, Andropogon australis, Schœnus calostachyus, Leptaspis Banksii,* and *Dawsonia superba,* nearly all otherwise strictly Australian, irrespective of Alpine species, and of such as are of jointly Australian and Sundaic type. To these can now be added, through the circumspect action of the Administrator of British New Guinea:—*Drosera petiolaris, Halfordia drupifera, Muehlenbeckia rhyticarpa, Eucalyptus tereticornis, E. terminalis, Melaleuca symphocarpa, Metrosideros paradoxa, Fenzlia obtusa, Modecca australis, Alyxia spicata, Mitrasacme elata, Plectranthus longicornis, Hœmodorum coccineum, Gahnia aspera, Eriachne squarrosa, E. pallescens.*

It can now further be shown that the cedar (or rather cedrel), of which many timber shipments have been brought already to Australian ports, is identical with the Singapore Cedar (*Cedrela Toona*). For the magnificent and renowned acquatic plant, *Nelumbo nucifera,* has now also been indicated a natural location on the upper Fly river. Some other plants, unknown from New Guinea before, such as *Polygala Chinensis, Salomonia oblongifolia, Sesuvium Portulacastrum, Leptospermum Javanicum,* and *Limnophila gratioloides,* become recorded from the Administrator's last

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gatherings, while some more are awaiting yet careful comparative elucidation for fixing safely their systematic position. Count Solms-Laubach, the Monographer of Pandaneæ, has acknowledged the validity of the Screw Pine from Ferguson Island, in the Louisiades, as a new species under the name *P. Macgregorii*.

An extensive treatise of my own emanated from Sir William MacGregor's Highland plants, obtained during his memorable expedition of last year. This essay has appeared in the recent quarto volume of the Royal Society of Victoria. But while engaged for extensive and responsible extra duties in the cause of science towards the end of 1889, and in the commencement of 1890, I could examine myself only a few of the ferns, brought from the upper region of the Owen Stanley Range; among them, however, is the new *Cyathea Macgregorii*, which reaches a higher regional elevation than any other of the many kinds of fern trees now known. To expedite, therefore, the determining of their specific position, I induced the special pteridologist, J. G. Baker, at the great Kew Establishment, to bring his particular experience to bear for defining systematically the approximately 70 species of *Ficilis* and *Lycopodiaceæ*, contained in Sir William MacGregor's collection from the Owen Stanley ranges. Among these proved of leading interest the *Aspidium Filix mas*, the popular male fern of Britain, one of wide distribution through the cooler regions of the globe; but previously obtained neither in New Guinea nor in Australia, not even there in the Alpine Zone. Mr. Baker has considered 19 of these ferns as new, and therefore, so far as our present experience reaches, as exclusively Papuan. These hitherto unknown species are comprised within the genera:—*Cyathea, Hymenophyllum, Dicksonia, Davallia Lindsaya, Aspidium*, and largely *Polypodium*. His elaboration of all these ferns appeared in Britten's Journal of Botany, April, 1890.

I would also add yet my own tribute of recognition to Sir William MacGregor for the scientific air which has pervaded all his exertions, while under the greatest perils, vast toil, and frequent deprivations he and his followers courageously traversed so many wide regions undisclosed before to civilised man, whereby these exploratory itinerations, also the rural wealth, is sure to be extensively increased through close insight into the primeval vegetation.

FERD. VON MUELLER.

APPENDIX U.

New Guinea.—Report on Zoology for the year 1889 *by C. W. De Vis, M.A., Curator, Queensland Museum.*

Queensland Museum, 9th October 1890.

The interesting zoological results of the year covered by the last report could have been renewed in the present only by similar achievement in exploration. From the effort of a year not

signalised by a bold foray into a distant mountain region of unknown wealth in animal life, less extension of our knowledge of Papuan nature could reasonably be expected. Yet that year has been far from barren. Even the expedition to the Fly river, travelling over well-beaten ground on which little that was likely to be noticed by passing eyes, was, at the same time, likely to be novel, brought in welcome accessions to our fund of information in the shape of species new either to science or to New Guinea, and that much yet remains on the very surface of observation to be discovered without going far afield is evident from the success which attended the visits of Mr. A. C. English to the well-known St. Joseph river but a day's sail from Port Moresby. It can, indeed, hardly be doubted that New Guinea will for many years continue to be a happy hunting ground for the naturalist.

In the present report it will appear that no new animal of the warm-blooded classes has been met with during the year; perhaps those remaining to be found in the coast country are both few and rare. By way of compensation, however, it may be observed that certain Australian birds, the Native Companion, White Ibis, and Royal Spoonbill, must now be included in the Papuan avifauna as at least temporary sojourners on the banks of the Fly river. It is noteworthy that these birds were found on the Fly river during the continuance in the north of Queensland of a drought which, before broken up in the south, had driven them from their haunts proper and scattered them far and wide in search of water. Of the reptiles, on the other hand, we are able to distinguish new forms, though few in number. These occur among the lizards, and in the name of one of them the zeal of their collector, Mr. English, has been commemorated. The accession of the handsome snakes, *Chondropython azureus* and *pulcher*, to the State collection of Papuan ophidians is a matter of gratulation.

On the whole the vertebrate collection is subordinate in importance and interest to that of the insect division of the invertebrates, and happily so, for with the insects of New Guinea its nearest neighbour should be better acquainted than it is. The whole of the insects collected have been committed for examination to the Keeper of the Entomological Department, from whom have been received the two reports on the *Lepidoptera* and *Coleoptera* respectively, which are hereunto appended. (*See* Appendix V.). From these it will be seen that Mr. Tryon's research has enabled him to select several species both of butterflies and beetles for approval as new introductions to science.

A feature conferring unusual interest upon the present collection is that it contains in many instances a large series of examples of the same insect, a matter in all cases to be desired, but all important in the case of variable forms whose unknown range of variation is a prolific source of error. Besides *Lepidoptera* and *Coleoptera* it contains many Hemiterous insects for the immediate determination of which time has not sufficed.

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The few forms of mollusca procured on the Fly river, a list of which will be found under Appendix V. have yielded to Mr. C. Hedley, who has reported upon them, but one new species fit for description, but this is a remarkably fine Nanina. A description of it is postponed until Mr. Hedley has completed his examination of the shells collected by himself in New Guinea.

List of Vertebrates collected on the Fly River.

Reporter: C. W. DE VIS.

MAMMALIA—

Marsupiata—

Cuscus maculatus, *Less. and Garn.*; adult and young.

AVES—

Psittacidæ—

Cyclopsittacus aruensis, *Schleg.*
Geoffroyus aruensis, *G. R. Gr.*

Cuculidæ—

Scythrops novæ-hollandiæ, *Lath.*

Bucerotidæ—

Rhytidoceros plicatus, *Penn.*

Alcedinidæ—

Tanysiptera hydrocharis, *G. R. Gr.*
Sauropatis chloris, *Bodd.*
Sauromarptis gaudichaudi, *Q. and G.*
Dacelo intermedius, *Salv.*
Melidora macrorhina, *Less.*

Artamidæ—

Artamus leucogaster, *Valenc.*

Laniidæ—

Cracticus quoyi, *Less.*
C. cassicus, *Bodd.*

Meliphagidæ—

Ptilotis versicolor, *Gld.*

Paradiseidæ—

Cincinnurus regius, *Lin.*

Gouridæ—

Goura sclateri, *Salvad.*

Rallidæ—

Megacrex inepta, *D'Alb. and Salvd.*

Scolopacidæ—

Numenius cyanopus, *Vieill.*

Gruidæ—

Grus australasianus, *Gld.*

Ibididæ—
Threskiornis strictipennis, *Gld.*
Platalea regia, *Gld.*

Ardeidæ—
Ardea picata, *Gld.*
Herodias garzetta, *Lin.*
Butoroides javanica, *Horsf*

Casuariidæ—
Casuarius beccarii, *Sclat.*

List of Vertebrates collected by Mr. A. C. English on the St. Joseph River.

Reporter: C. W. DE VIS.

MAMMALIA—

Placentalia—
Cheiroptera—
Vesperugo pumilus, *Gr.*

Marsupiata—
Belidæus ariel, *Gld.*

REPTILIA—

Lacertilia—
Varanidæ—
Varanus prasinus, *Schleg.*
V. salvadorii, *Ptrs. and Dor.*
Agamidæ—
Gonyocephalus dilophus, *D. and B.*
Scincidæ—
Tiliquina—
Tiliqua gigas, *Schneid.*
Lygosomina—
Hinulia jobiensis, *Mey.*
Emoa pallidiceps (*n.s.*).*
E. cuneiceps (*n.s.*).*
Heteropus bicarinatus, *Macl.*
H. fuscus, *D. and B.*
Homolepida englishi (*n.s.*).*
Pygopodidæ—
Lialis burtonii, *Gr.*

Ophidia—
Pythonidæ—
Liasis amethystinus.
Chondropython azureus, *Mey.*
C. pulcher, *Sauv.*

* Described in Proceedings of Linnæan Society of New South Wales, 2nd ser., vol. 5, pt. 3.

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List of Birds collected on the East Coast.

Reporter: C. W. DE VIS.

FALCONIDÆ—
Haliastur girrenera, *Vieill.*
Milvus affinis, *Gld.*
Baza reinwardtii, *Müll. and Schleg.*

STRIGIDÆ—
Ninox theomacha, *Bp.*
N. humeralis, *Hom. and Jac.*

PSITTACIDÆ—
Eclectus pectoralis, *Müll.*
Lorius hypenochrous, *Gr.*

ALCEDINIDÆ—
Sauropatis saurophaga, *Gld.*
Clytoceyx rex, *Shp.*
Melidora macrorhina, *Less.*

CORACIIDÆ—
Eurostomus pacificus, *Lath.*

PODARGIDÆ—
Podargus papuensis, *Q. and G.*

CYPSELIDÆ—
Macropteryx mystacea, *Less.*

MUSCICAPIDÆ—
Monarcha melanopsis, *Vieill.*
M. chalybeocephalus, *Garn.*

DICRURIDÆ—
Dicruropsis carbonaria, *Müll.*

STURNIDÆ—
Mino dumonti, *Less.*

PARADISEIDÆ—
Manucodia atra, *Less.*
Paradisea raggiana, *Sclat.*
Cincinnurus regius, *Lin.*
Chlamydodera cerniviventris, *Gld.*

TRERONIDÆ—
Ptilopus coronulatus, *G. R. Gr.*

GOURIDÆ—
Henicophaps albifrons, *G. R. Gr.*

CALÆNATIDÆ—
Calænas nicobarica, *Lin.*

MEGAPODIIDÆ—
Megapodius duperreyi, *Less. and Garn.*

CHARADIIDÆ—
Charadius fulvus, *Gm.*

GLAREOLIDÆ—
Hæmatopus longirostris, *Vieill.*

PELECANIDÆ—
Microcarbo melanoleucus, *Vieill.*
Sula leucogastra, *Bodd.*

LARIDÆ—
Anous stolidus, *Lin.*

APPENDIX V.

List of Coleoptera collected in the St. Joseph River District of British New Guinea by Mr. A. C. English.

By HENRY TRYON, Assistant Curator, Queensland Museum.

FAM. CICENDELIDÆ.

1. *Tricondyla aptera*, Olivier; several examples.

FAM. CARABIDÆ.

2. *Harpalus*, sp.; one example.

3. *Pœcilus ornatus*, sp. nov. *Male:* Head green, with purple reflections; labrum, prothorax, and elytra dark olive-green, the last two bordered externally by a broad band of bright green, the extreme margin being orange-yellow; under surface piceous, mandibles except their tips, six outer joints of antennæ, sternal portions of thoracic and hinder margins of abdominal segments red; palps, three basal joints of antennæ, and legs testaceous, the last-mentioned lighter externally; head densely finely punctured, reticulate-punctured between the eyes; prothorax impunctate, obscurely transversely rugose along mesial central impression and at the sides; interspaces between striæ of elytra with numerous scattered small punctures; a few larger punctures, also, on the third and fifth; hair on sides of elytra, and a long hair from each posterior lateral angle of prothorax rufous. Length 12 mm.

4. *Celia*, sp. A solitary example, probably referable to this genus of *Feronideæ*.

FAM. DYTISCIDÆ.

5. *Sternopriscus*, sp.; four examples.

6. *Cybister* (*Goddefroyi*, Wehncke)?; one example. The genus *Cybister* has not been previously recorded as represented in New Guinea.

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7. *Hydaticus*, sp. (1), allied to *H. bihamatus*, Aubé; three males.

8. *Hydaticus*, sp. (2); five males.

9. *Hydaticus*, sp. (3); one female.

NOTE.—These three species of *Hydaticus* do not correspond with any species of the genus already reported as occurring in New Guinea.

FAM. GYRINIDÆ.

10. *Dineutes Gouldi*, Hpe.; five examples.

11. *Enhydrus*, sp.; eight examples.

FAM. HYDROPHILIDEÆ.

12. *Hydrophilus*, sp. (1), aff. *H. Gayndahensis*, Macl.; three examples.

13. *Hyprophilus*, sp. (2); two examples.

14. *Sternolophus*, n. sp.; fourteen examples.—Description deferred.

15. *Sternolophus*; one example.

NOTE.—This solitary individual may represent the opposite sex to that of the last mentioned, and so be co-specific with it.

16. *Hydrobius*, sp.; three examples. A somewhat aberrant species, since it possesses both a narrow keel and a tubercle on the mesosternum.

17. *Hydrobius*, sp.; one example.

FAM. BYRRHIDÆ.

The collection contains examples of two species of *Byrrhidæ*. These are referred to the genus *Dendropinis*, Wollaston (Ent. Month. Mag. x. p. 33, 1873), although the necessity for excluding them from the older *Nesodendron*, Latr., does not appear to be very obvious. The New Guinea species recede from the latter genus, as defined by Lacordaire, in having the labium excavated in front, at least in *D. calva*, sp. nov., and in having the first four joints of the tarsi clothed beneath. From *Dendropinis*, Woll., they differ in having all the tibiæ externally minutely spinulose, instead of this condition being peculiar to the tibiæ of the posterior pair ("*tibiis posterioribus*"). No member of the *Byrrhidæ* is recorded as occurring in New Guinea, but E. Reitter has described four species from Sumatra (*vide* Notes from the Leyden Museum, 1880 and 1886).

18. *Dendropinis calva*, sp. nov. Black, nitid, finely punctured. glabrous (no indications of existence of a caducous pubescence). On the anterior surfaces and at the extremities of the tibiæ, and on the fore part of the mentum, and on the mandibles, some tawny hairs. Head above (including conjoined front and clypeus) densely punctured, and having a shallow rather obscure impres-

sion on each side between the eyes; these light-coloured. Antennæ with the club fulvous yellow, the remaining joints reddish piceous; third joint equal to four following joints; seventh to eighth joints triangular, successively increasing in breadth. Labium shallowly excavated in front with the sides of the excavation convex. Mentum coarsely punctured. Elytra with a wide transverse ill-defined band of large punctures about the middle; epipleuræ with two excavations at the anterior end of each to receive the intermediate limbs in repose. Anterior surfaces of femora without large punctures; tarsi red-piceous, with the under surfaces of joints 1-4 with dense brushes of fulvous hair. Metathoracic parapleura well developed, with numerous large punctures at the sides, the opposite groups being connected posteriorly by a single linear series. Abdomen with segments 2 to 4 subequal; the fifth equal to third and forth, all having a single row of contiguous large punctures along their anterior margins; the first and second segments excavated at the sides to receive the hind pair of limbs in repose, that in the second being curved to correspond with the outline of the tarsi. Length 8 mm. (4 lines).

19. *Dendropinis vestita*, sp. nov. This differs from *D. calva* in the possession of the following amongst other characters:—Glossy, finely punctured, and uniformly covered with a short erect pubescence; the mentum traversed by a conspicuous mesial longitudinal groove. Coarse punctures absent on the elytra, but present on the anterior surfaces of the femora, and on the sides of the abdominal segments behind. The latter also more strongly arcuated forwards in the middle line. Length 5 mm. (2½ lines). A single specimen only.

FAM. LUCANIDÆ.

20. *Cyclommatus kaupi*, Gestro; one male.

21. *Mastochilus subobliquus*, sp. nov. Frontal ridge well defined; two stout teeth project from the clypeus on to the labrum, one of which is larger than the other. These teeth are connected at the bases by a low transverse ridge, but no oblique ridge connects them with the prefrontal ridge; the central portion of the labium is separated from the lateral by deep grooves and is rather narrow. Prothorax very tumid, with mesial impression almost obsolete; the depression opposite the posterior lateral angle is large and filled with punctures, and there is generally a shallow depression adjacent to the hind margin, halfway between the lateral angle and the centre. Striæ of elytra very pronounced and all crenated. Length 40 mm.

NOTE.—The only *Mastochilus* recorded from New Guinea is *M. obliquus*, Kirsch., and this is described in an inaccessible Dresden publication. It does not appear that the specific appellation *obliquus* is in any way applicable to the insect under examination.

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FAM. SCARABÆIDÆ.

22. *Onthophagus consentaneus*, Harold; four examples.
23. *Anomala (fuscoviridis*, Blanch.); two examples.
24. *Anomala*, sp.; one example.
25. *Schizorhina whitei*, Thomson. Two examples of a *Schizorhina* are referred to this variable species. They are bronzy-piceous with purple reflections, and have the sutural lines of the elytra interrupted and their punctures relatively small.

FAM. BUPRESTIDÆ.

26. *Cyphogastra foveicollis*, Boisd.; two examples.

FAM. ELATERIDÆ.

27. *Alaus*, sp.; one example.

NOTE.—Without access to Candeze's monograph it is not possible to compare this insect with the description of any of the several species of this genus which are known to inhabit New Guinea.

FAM. MALACODERMIDÆ.

28. *Cladophorus ingenuus*, Waterh.; one individual.
29. *Telephorus*, sp.; one individual.

FAM. TENEBRIONIDÆ.

30. *Amarygmus oculeus*, Macl.; eight individuals.

NOTE.—Three of these may be separated as a well-marked variety, since they possess a defined yellow border to the clypeus, a character which is absent in the typical form.

FAM. LAGRIDÆ.

31. *Lagria pulchella*, Guérin; two examples.

FAM. RHIPHIDOPHORIDÆ.

32. *Emenadia*, sp.; one individual.

FAM. CURCULIONIDÆ.

33. *Pachyrhynchus rubro-verrucatus*, sp. nov. Black, dull; thorax little longer than broad, shallowly reticulate-punctate and with a faint indication in front of the mesial impression; elytra coarsely striate-punctate, the punctures most conspicuous at the centre near the suture, and elsewhere tending to become more or less obsolete, each with *one circular, one pyriform, and three more or less elongated, linear, smooth, red pustules*, of which the first two are sub-basal and the remaining three extending backwards to a

varying degree and elevated near their posterior limits. Silvery-blue scales are scattered on the sides and towards the apex of the elytra on the under surface, and upon the legs; patches of these scales also occur upon the sides of the head, beneath the eyes, and upon the coxæ. Short greyish scales clothe the legs. Length (incl. rost.) 14 mm.; thorax—length 4·5 mm., breadth 4 mm.; elytra—length 8 mm., breadth 5 mm. This insect evidently belongs to the group of species of *Pachyrhynchus* which includes *P. quadripustulatus*, Gestro (*P. verrucatus*, Pasc.) and *P. decempustulatus*, Gestro. In both of these, however, the pustules are circular in outline.

34. *Eupholus bennettii*, Gestro; 50 examples. Great variation in disposition of colour, from the type as described by Gestro, is exhibited by several of the specimens under examination.

35. *Rhinoscapha*, sp.; 20 individuals. Descriptions alone do not seem adequate to separate and define the species of this difficult genus, and therefore it has been found impracticable to name the specimens comprised in the collection.

36. *Apirocalus cornutus*, Pascoe; 12 individuals.

37. *Apirocalus* (*cornutus*, Pascoe, *femina*)? The elytra are more tumid than are those of *A. cornutus*, Pascoe, as described; moreover, they are much less longly cornuted. On the other hand, in the two insects the scales form a similar clothing.

38. *Leptops*, sp.; eight examples. Allied to *L. iliaca*, Pascoe, but probably distinct. Some have the scales light ferruginous, with white patches of scales here and there; others, again, have the squamæ light grey.

39. *Lixus* (*australis*, Dejean)?; two individuals. Probably referable to this species as defined by Boisduval, but his description is insufficient to indicate the beetle before him.

40. *Pæpalosomus dealbatus*, Boisduval; several examples.

41. *Alcides gestroi*, Pasc.; two examples.

42. *Alcides* (*elegans*, Guérin); 12 examples.

43. *Pantoxystus rubricollis*, Boisd.; one example.

44. *Tranes*, sp. An anomalous species if included in this genus of *Amalactideæ*, since the eyes do not meet beneath, and the second joint of the funicle is longer than the first joint.

FAM. BRENTHIDÆ.

45. *Orychodes* (*diagramma*, Boisd.)?; two examples. These represent a variety of the typical species, with the yellow band occupying the third interspace of the elytra interrupted, and an additional longitudinal band on the fifth, also a lateral and two apical ones—*i.e.*, in all six stripes.

46. *Ectocnemus*, sp.; one example. Closely allied to *E. pterygorrhinus*, Gestro, but having two apical linear elytral spots, and the expanded portion of the apical portion of the rostrum in the form of a tooth on each side.

47. *Eupsalis promissa*, Pascoe; three males and four females.

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Fam. Anthribidæ.

48. *Anthribus wallacei*, Pascoe; two examples.
49. *Cedus*, sp.; one example. Allied to *C. guttatus*, Pascoe, but distinct therefrom.

Fam. Cerambycidæ.

50. *Tmesisternus politus*, Blanch.; 35 examples.
51. *Tmesisternus trivittatus*, Guér.; nine examples.

Note.—Three of these probably represent a distinct species, the front elytral band being waved and the hind one fuscous (instead of white). They measure 10 mm. (five lines) in length.

52. *Monochamus* (*Dihammus*) *rarus*, Thoms.; four examples.
53. *Batocera wallacei*, Pax. aff.; eight examples.
54. *Batocera lœna*, Thoms. aff.; five examples.
55. *Gnoma longicollis*, Fabr.; six examples.
56. *Exzemotes*, sp.; two examples.
57. *Glenea venusta*, Guér.; one example.

Fam. Chrysomelidæ.

Crioceridæ.

58. *Lema cyanesthis*, Boisd.; two females.

Eumolpidæ.

59. *Nodostoma*, sp.
60. *Rhyparida*, sp.; three examples. This genus is specially well represented in the Malay Archipelago, Baly alone having described 57 species. The labour involved in referring any insect to the species which it possibly represents is not compensated for by any certain conclusions to be arrived at.
61. *Colasposoma regularis*, Jacoby; 11 examples of the blue, and 24 of the green—cupreous variety.

Halticidæ.

62. *Nisotra papuensis*, sp. nov.; one example. Prothorax with a short, lateral, longitudinal, groove but without indications of the transverse one. Elytra very finely closely punctured, without costæ, dark purplish steel-blue, abdomen and hind femora piceous. Prothorax orange, and remaining portions, including antennæ, lighter yellow. Length, including head, 6 mm.
63. *Nisotra obliterata*, Jacoby; four examples.
64. *Arispoda pulcher*, sp. nov.; one example. Colour rufous, distant portion of hindmost femora piceous; antennæ with the six basal joints rufous, the joints beyond piceous. Prothorax minutely punctured with two basal longitudinal impressions, but without transverse one. Elytra dark steel-blue, striate-punctate, with 10

rows of single punctures, interspaces minutely punctate. Length, 5 mm.

Galerucideæ.

65. *Oides*, sp. (*bifasciata*, Blanch.) ?; one example. Nitid, sub-elongate; sides of head, antennæ (except inner surfaces of three first joints), limbs (except coxæ and bases of femora) metathorax, a broad basal and a broad sub-apical elytral band black; clypeus, parts above excepted, prothorax and mesothorax light yellow; abdomen light fuscous; remaining parts of elytra bright red. Vertex smooth, distantly punctured; prothorax obsoletely transversely impressed in front; both it and elytra closely impressed by punctures. Limbs pubescent, except longitudinal ridge along outer aspect of tibiæ of posterior and middle pair, which are naked. Length, 6 mm.

66. *Oides basalis*, sp. nov.; two examples. Pale yellow; antennæ with outer ends of proximal and the distal joints pale fuscous. Elytra metallic blue, with a broad basal band continued along the outer borders but narrowing posteriorly, red. Length, 9 mm.

67. *Oides flavo-limbata*, sp. nov.; two examples. Oblong-ovate, pale fulvous; abdomen black; distal joints of antennæ fuscous; elytra steel-blue with purple reflections, having their extreme basal and lateral margins fulvous. Scutellum fulvous. Head impunctate, the central longitudinal groove of the vertex nearly obsolete; fourth and following joints of antennæ clothed with dark pubescence; prothorax broad, regularly convex, sides almost evenly rounded; anterior lateral angles obtuse but very prominent, apparently impunctate and with scarcely a trace of the anterior transverse impression. Length, 8 mm. Allied to *O. Jacobyi*, Duviv.

68. *Oides*, sp.; one example.

69. *Aulacophora boisduvali*, Baly; four examples.

70. *Aulacophora melanura*, Olivier; one example. The insect under examination is referred to this species with some misgivings, owing to the meagre nature of Boisduval's description.

71. *Phyllobrotica bifasciata*, Jacoby; two examples.

72. *Prasyptera antennata*, Jacoby; 20 examples.

73. *Candeza bimaculata*, Jacoby; two examples.

74. *Buphonida rubrovirida*, sp. nov. Sub-elongate convex, dull, dark, reddish brown; front part of head and basal joints of antennæ lighter; under surface testaceous; extremity of femora and remainder of limbs and antennæ dark fuscous. Vertex impunctate, front rugose-punctate, narrow frontal impression well defined, clypeus slightly excavated in the centre; prothorax much narrower than elytra, fore and hind border about equal—the latter shallowly excavated in the centre, sides arcuate, hinder lateral angles prominent, coarsely punctate, mesial longitudinal and transverse impressions well defined. Elytra very coarsely punctate, densely clothed with yellowish grey pubescence, smooth and more coarsely punctured in the narrow space between the margin

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

and sub-marginal costa; bases of elytra and broad longitudinal band behind the shoulders ill-defined internally, metallic green. Length, 8 mm.

75. *Buphonida intermedia*, sp. nov.; five examples. These, though rather smaller than the above-mentioned examples of the genus, probably represent a variety of the same species. They are, however, light testaceous (instead of being dark reddish brown, ! "*sordide fulva*"), and seem to connect Baly's species, *B. submarginata*, P. E. Soc., 1886, py. 38, from Mysol, with the foregoing.

Cassideæ.

76. *Cassida*, sp.; three examples.
77. *Aspidomorpha novæ-guineensis*, Boisd.; 20 examples.
78. *Aspidomorpha adhærens*, Weber; two examples.
79. *Aspidomorpha australasiæ*; 14 examples.

The examples referred to this genus are identified with these species only after considerable misgivings, owing to the brevity of the descriptions given by their respective authors. The species of the genus would appear to vary much in both the extent and the disposition of their special markings. In the last mentioned the brown colour of the markings may be so modified in intensity as to become nearly black; the yellow marks interrupting the discal connecting band may be more or less developed until they take the form of a large spot. In one individual the elytra are entirely black. The disc of the elytra, moreover, varies, too, in the degree to which it is elevated.

FAM. LANGURIIDÆ.

80. *Languria violaceipennis*, Harold; one example.

FAM. COCCINELLIDÆ.

81. *Chilomenes*, sp.; two examples.
82. *Epilachna hæmato-melæna*, Boisd.
83. *Epilachna*, sp.; two examples. Probably a variety of the last mentioned.
84. *Epilachna triodecemnotata*, Riche.

H. TRYON.

Brisbane, 4th August 1890.

List of Butterflies collected in British New Guinea Expeditions undertaken during Year 1889–90.

By HENRY TRYON, Assistant Curator, Queensland Museum.

NOTE.—The initial letters immediately following the places given as habitats for the different species indicate those by whom the specimens from these localities were collected. In this connexion C.H. refers to Charles Hedley, C.K. to Charles Kowald.

The butterflies from Apiana and Amo Amo, St. Joseph River district, were obtained in May; those from Doura, Manu Manu district, in June; and those from Milne and Bentley Bays in July.

PAPILIONIDÆ.

1. *Ornithoptera poseidon*, E. Doubl.; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.), St. Joseph River (C.H.), Milne Bay (C.H.), Bentley Bay (C.H.). The examples of the female insect are identical with the specimens of *Ornithoptera* which W. H. Miskin has referred to *O. priamus*, Lynn. (*vid.* Annual Report on British New Guinea, 1888–9, p. 63, Brisbane, 1890*). Representatives of the opposite sex render it, however, evident that the common green *Ornithoptera* of British New Guinea is *O. poseidon*, Doubl., as interpreted by Cramer (Pap. Exot. xxiii. A. and B), and A. R. Wallace (Trans. Lin. Soc. Lond. 1866, p. 35). Again, there is little or nothing by which to distinguish from this insect the *O. pronomus*, G. R. Gray, of Cape York. One of the male insects procured at Apiana, St. Joseph River, has a wing expansion of only 4·6 inches. The same locality yielded a specimen in which the golden spots—even the large one usually present above the black spot included in the space intervening between the costal vein and first subcostal veinlet—of the hind wings were altogether absent.

2. *Ornithoptera helena*, Linn.; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.), Doura (C.H.), Amo Amo (C.H.), St. Joseph River (C.H.). The males and females were in the proportion of 4 to 1. A female insect from Amo Amo had the fore wings uniformly sooty-black on the upper surface; the second female, from Doura, corresponded in the disposition of colour of the fore wings to that figured by Cramer (Pap. Exot. t. xxv. A.).

3. *Papilio Ulysses*, var. *penelope*, Wall.; Doura, Manu Manu River (C.H.), Milne Bay (C.H.).

4. *Papilio polydorus*, Linn.; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.), St. Joseph River (C.H.).

5. *Papilio nicanor*, Feld.; Doura (C.H.). A diminutive example with alar expansion only 2·9 inches.

6. *Papilio ambrax*, Boisd.; †Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.).

7. *Papilia euchenor*, Guér.; Fly River (C.K. and R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.); Milne Bay (C.H.). This insect presents the characters assigned to the *P. euchenor*, Guér., by Boisduval (Voy. Astrolabe, p. 41). The description, however, of this author is not sufficiently extended to adequately define the species.

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* Colonial Possessions Report, No. 103, pp. 117–124.

† The opportunity afforded through the publication of this paper is, it seems, a fitting one for recording, in addition to the species of butterflies collected under the auspices of his Honour the Administrator, the occurrence of certain species in the Fly River Valley made known by the late expedition sent out in 1886 by the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia. The specimens examined for the purpose of this record are contained in the New Guinea insect collection of the museum, and are a portion of those understood to have been obtained by W. W. Froggatt, natural history collector to the expedition.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

8. *Papilio thule*, Wall.; Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.). This butterfly represents the variety "*a*" of Wallace in having "the discal spot of the lower wings united with a transverse band "divided by fine nervures."

9. *Papilio parmatus*, G. R. Gray; Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.).

10. *Papilio agammemnon*, Linn.; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.).

PIERIDÆ.

11. *Terias hecabe*, Linn.; Amo Amo, St. Joseph River (C.H.); Milne Bay (C.H.); Bentley Bay (C.H.).

12. *Terias puella*, Boisd.; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.).

13. *Terias virgo*, Wall.; Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.); Doura (C.H.).

14. *Delias cruentata*, Butler; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.); Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.).

15. *Delias inferna*, Butler; Kiwai Island (C.K.); Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.).

DANAÏDÆ.

16. *Danais sobrina*, Boisd.; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.); Milne Bay (C.H.). The spots on the wings individually approach in size those present in the allied species, *D. ishma*, Butler, from Celebes.

17. *Danais affinis*, Fabr.; Kiwai, Fly River (C.K.).

18. *Danais* (*Parantica*) *citrina*, Feld.; Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.); Doura (C.H.).

19. *Hamadryas zoilus*, Fabr., var.; Apiana (C.H.); Milne Bay (C.H.).

20. *Euplœa* (*Gammotoba*) *nox*, Butler; Doura (C.H.). *Male:* The male specimen assigned to this species, the type of which is a female (*sec.* Butler), presents, in addition to the presence of a light streak on the anterior wing beneath, between the internal vein and the first median veinlet, the following characters:—

—	Male.	Female.
Above, anterior wings, subapical spots	Four	Three.
„ hind wings, submarginal spots	Nine (2 anterior small)	Seven.
„ „ marginal spots	Eleven (white)	Ten (ochreous).
Beneath, anterior wings, additional submarginal spots.	None.	
„ „ „ marginal points	One	Two.
„ „ „ discal spots	Two	One.
„ hind wings, submarginal spots	Ten	Eight.

21. *Euplœa* (*Chirosa*) *pierretii*, Feld., aff.; Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.). Three female and one male insects. However, the sexes are associated with some misgivings.

22. *Euplæa* (*Gastia*) *distanti*, Moore; Milne Bay (C.H.).

23. *Euplæa* (*Saphara*) *treitschkei*, Boisd.; Milne Bay (C.H.).

24. *Euplæa* (*Hirdapa*) *usipetes*, Hew.; Amo Amo (C.H.); Milne Bay (C.H.). The male insects from the above localities differ from the type, as figured by Hewitson, in having on the upper surface the light area in the disc more extensive and less well defined. On the outer side, too, this patch is confluent with a grey area (fading to white) which contains an opaque white spot anterior to the sexual brand. Above, also, there is a submarginal row of spots below the apex of the front wings. These spots may be six in number; usually all are indistinct, or the anterior three or four conspicuous. Beneath, these spots may have no representatives, or the first two, three, or four may be well defined. The females vary in a similar direction, a submarginal white spot in the first median interspace of the front wings being the most permanent.

25. *Euplæa* (*Hirdapa*) *spartacus*, Misk.; Milne Bay (C.H.). In a male example there are seven submarginal white spots present on the underside instead of five as in the type. The most anterior of these is very small, and in front of the one corresponding to the most anterior spot on the upper surface.

26. *Euplæa* (*Salpinx*) *callithöe*, Boisd.; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.). The female of this handsome species does not appear to have been previously described. From the male *E. callithöe* and from other species it is distinguished by the possession of the following characters:—Above the general colour is reddish fuscous lighter externally (blackish fuscous in male). On anterior wings a large externally ill-defined white patch occupies the centre of disc, extending inwards half across the cell and forwards and outwards, so as to involve and merge with the arched transverse row of large pale blue spots (so conspicuous in the male). On the hind wings the white of the anterior border is outwardly more extensive, and is very conspicuous through the absence of the fawn-coloured glandular patch (of the male). Beneath, the general colour is lighter brown than in male; on the anterior wings the discal whitish patch is more diffused than it is upon the upper surface. Length of wing, 2 in. 7 lines, *i.e.*, 62 mm. (in male, 59 mm.).

NOTE.—It may not be superfluous to add that the female possesses a character common to that sex in the species belonging to *Salpinx* and allied sub-genera of *Euplæa*, viz., the hind margin, instead of being very convex, is more or less straightened by reason of the narrowing of the space within the internal vein.

27. *Euplæa* (*Calliplæa*) *saundersi*, Feld.; Milne Bay (C.H.). The single example, a female, certainly belongs to the group which includes *E. magares*, Moore, *E. dorycus*, Butl., and the above species. It most closely approaches the last mentioned, the type of which is from Aru Island.

28. *Euplæa* (*Calliplæa*) *parvior*, sp. nov. *Male:* Above—Light reddish brown, gradually becoming pale brown towards margin of wings, with purple reflections, without spots; hind wings with the discoidal patch pale coloured and rather small, the pale area

in which it is included extending nearly to hind margin of cell. Beneath—Rather pale dull brown; fore wings with the whitish area, which includes the sexual patch very conspicuous, extending to cell; hind wings with three white spots at extreme base (as in many other species of *Euplæa*), the anterior one of which is the largest; wing expansion, 2·4 inches. This insect is about the size of *E.* (*Calliplæa*) *pumila*, Butler (P.Z.S. 1866, p. 290), but appears to represent a distinct species. Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.), one specimen only.

29. *Euplæa* (*Stictoplæa*) *immaculata*, Butler; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.); Amo Amo (C.H.). In one of the male examples collected at Kiwai Island the spot usually present in the cell beneath is absent. *Euplæa crithon*, Miskin (Proc. Lin. Soc. N.S.W., ser. 2, vol. iv., p. 1042, Sydney, 1890), from Cape York, will, it seems, prove to be identical with Butler's species.

SATYRIDÆ.

30. *Cyllo amabilis*, Boisd.; Milne Bay (C.H.).

31. *Melanitis leda*, Linn.; Milne Bay (C.H.); Bentley Bay (C.H.).

32. *Mycalesis* (*Orsotriæna*) *medus*, Fabr.; Milne Bay (C.H.). The variety illustrated by the three examples contained in the collection more nearly approaches the variety *M. doris*, Cram. (Pap. Exot. iv., t. 362, c. 1782), than any other. On the under surface there are faint indications of the spots (ocelli) present on the upper surface. In Cramer's description no allusion is made to the presence of two white submarginal lines, including a dark brown interspace. Such a feature is present in the insects under examination.

33. *Mycalesis* (*Orsotriæna*) *perseus*, Fabr.; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.). The single specimen which, with some hesitation, is identified with this species, is of unusually large dimensions, having a wing expansion of 2·3 inches. Being old and faded, it is relatively light coloured, with scarcely a trace of the usual reddish tinge. At the same time the ocelli are very distinct. Its reference to *Orsotriæna* is correct beyond a doubt.

34. *Mycalesis* (*Mydosama*) *terminus*, Fabr.; Amo Amo (C.H.); Apiana, St. Joseph River (C.H.); Milne Bay (C.H.).

35. *Mycalesis* (*Mydosama*) *asophis*, Hew.; Amo Amo (C.H.). This insect possesses all the characters attributed by Boisduval to his species, *M. mehadeva*. It, however, possesses that distinctness between the colours of the outer and inner halves of the under surface of the hind wings which Hewitson notes as characteristic of *M. asophis*.

36. *Mycalesis* (*Mydosama*) *phidon*, Hew.; Amo Amo (C.H.); Bentley Bay (C.H.).

37. *Mycalesis* (*Sevanda*) *mucia*, Hew.; Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.); Amo Amo (C.H.).

38. *Mycalesis* (*Sevanda*) *dorycus*, Boisd.; Milne Bay (C.H.). Hewitson (Exotic Butterflies III., Satyridæ-Mycalesis II.) describes and figures the female of this species as having "a band of "orange near the outer margin, from the middle to the inner "margin." Boisduval, without indicating the sex of the insect to which his description applies, states (Voy. Astrolabe, *Lepidoptera*, p. 152) that the front wings are dark brown. They also possess this character in a single example from Milne Bay, a male insect. It may be doubted whether, in a genus in which the special sexual characters due to colour are little pronounced, as in *Mycalesis*, the opposite sexes are so distinct as is indicated, and therefore whether Hewitson's reference of the female insect before him to *M. dorycus*, Boisd., is correct.

39. *Mycalesis* (*Calysisme*) *pernotata*, sp. nov. *Male:* Above—Dark brown, a well-defined broad orange band crossing the middle of the wings, widest where the latter unite, exceeding one fourth hind margin, suddenly narrowed before and behind, and falling short of both costal border of anterior wing and inner border of hind one. Submarginal spots very indistinct, two on the anterior wing and three on the hind wing, in each case the hindmost being the largest. These spots have the pupil light violet, the disc purplish black, and the iris faint reddish brown. Submarginal line of outer border indistinct; odoriferous tuft at base of sub-costal light coloured. Beneath—Light brown, a well-defined broad white discal transverse band corresponding in position to the band on the upper surface. Submarginal spots coloured as above but conspicuous, and having the component parts very distinct; front wings with three, one between the radials, a second smaller one confluent with it, and a third much larger one behind; hind wings with four, one near the costal border, two between the median veinlets, and one at the anal angle; of these the third is the largest, and the second and fourth are the smallest. Wing expansion, 4[illegible] mm. Milne Bay (C.H.); one example in indifferent condition. This very distinct species evidently belongs to the group of *Calysisme*, which includes *M. nautilius* and *M. justinella*.

40. *Yphthima sub-arctous*, sp. nov. Above greyish brown, with cilia grey; a single ocellus on the front wing as in *Y. arctous;* hind wing without trace of ocellus. Under side grey, uniformly and closely undulated with brown; a single ocellus on the front wing; hind wing without trace of ocellus. Wing expansion, 1¼ inch, generally somewhat less. Milne Bay (C.H.).

NOTE.—The ocellus of the hind wings in *Y. arctous* tends to vanish, but it is doubtful whether it ever entirely disappears, and Semper, who has described (Journ. d. Mus. God. Heft. xiv., p. 145, 1879) the variations which occur in the species, makes, after examining abundant material, no mention of such an occurrence. Again, the six specimens of *Y. sub-arctous* from Milne Bay are all smaller than *Y. arctous*.

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ACRÆIDÆ.

41. *Acræa andromacha*, Fabr.; Doura (C.H.).

NYMPHALIDÆ.

42. *Lexias æropus*, Linn.; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.).

43. *Parthenos sylvia*, Cram., var. *tigrina*, Woll.; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.); Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.); Amo Amo (C.H.); Apiana (C.H.); Doura (C.H.).

44. *Cethosia cydippe*, Linn., var. *chrysippe*; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.); Amo Amo (C.H.); Doura (C.H.).

45. *Terinos novæ-guineensis*, sp. nov. *Male:* Fore wings shallowly falcate, the second median veinlet arising at the junction of the median and disco-cellular veins. Above—Anterior wings with the olivaceous fuscous velvet-like patch limited by a line commencing on the internal margin, which then proceeds to the origin of the first median veinlet, thence to the junction of the lower and upper discoidal veins, and thence with an angular emargination to the anterior radial, after which it curves towards the outer margin which is met at the posterior radial; an orange-rufous ill-defined spot at the apex. Hind wing, the velvet-like patch occupying the whole apical portion and extending as far backwards as the posterior radial; the orange-rufous patch occupying the outer portion of the wing from the middle of the outer margin to the anal angle, ill-defined, merging internally with the violet area. It contains a single submarginal waved violet line, and internal to this indications of a curved series of violet spots. Beneath—The pattern of marking is similar to what obtains in *Terinos robertsia*, Butl., *T. lucilla*, Butl., and allied species. The ground colour, however, is reddish white with bluish-grey reflections, and the markings rufous and rufous brown. Expanse of wings, 2 inches 9 lines (67 mm.) to 3¼ inches (81 mm.). Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.). Allied to the above-mentioned species and to *T. clarissa*, Boisd., but differing from all in the development of the velvet-like patches of the wings, and, with one exception, in the point of origin of the second median veinlet.

46. *Cynthia arsinöe*, Cram.; Amo Amo (C.H.). Males only.

47. *Dyctis agondas*, Boisd.; Apiana (C.H.).

48. *Messaras turneri*; Milne Bay (C.H.).

49. *Cyrestis acilia*, Godt.; Milne Bay (C.H.).

50. *Doleschallia* (*bisaltide*, Cram., var.); Bentley Bay (C.H.).

51. *Precis tristis*, Misk.; Doura (C.H.).

52. *Precis zelima*, Cram.; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.); Bentley Bay (C.H.).

53. *Junonia vellida*, Fabr.; Doura (C.H.); Milne Bay (C.H.).

54. *Salamis algina*, Boisd.; Amo Amo (C.H.).

55. *Hypolimnas alimena*, Linn.; Kiwai Island, Fly River, (C.K.); Milne Bay (C.H.); Bentley Bay (C.H.).

56. *Athyma venilia*, Linn; Milne Bay (C.H.).
57. *Athyma praslina*, Boisd.; Milne Bay (C.H.).
58. *Mynes leucis*, Boisd.; Milne Bay (C.H.).

ERYCINIDÆ.

59. *Taxila decorata*, Hew.; Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.); Apiana (C.H.).

MORPHIDÆ.

60. *Drusilla catops*, Boisd.; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.); Amo Amo (C.H.); Milne Bay (C.H.); Bentley Bay (C.H.).
61. *Drusilla catops*, Boisd. var. *mylæcha*, Westw.: Amo Amo (C.H.).
62. *Drusilla urania*, Linn.; Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.). In one male and one female the large ocellated spot at the anal angle of the posterior wing appears upon both surfaces of the wing; in other specimens it is obscured upon the upper surface.
63. *Drusilla dimona*, Hewitson; Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.).
64. *Drusilla bioculata*, Guér.; Fly River (R. Geog. Soc. Austr. Exp.).

LYCÆNIDÆ.

65. *Danis aleuas*, Feld.; Kiwai Island, Fly River (C.K.); Amo Amo (C.H.); Milne Bay (C.H.).
66. *Lampides cnejus*, Fabr.; Apiana (C.H.); Amo Amo (C.H.); Doura (C.H.).
67. *Lampides* (*cayaya*, Feld.); Milne Bay (C.H.).
68. *Lampides*, sp.; Amo Amo (C.H.); Doura (C.H.); Milne Bay (C.H.).
69. *Lycæna alsulus*, Her. Schaf.; Milne Bay (C.H.).
70. *Lycæna nemea*, Feld.; Amo Amo (C.H.).
71. *Pseudodipsas ilius*, Feld.; Apiana (C.H.); Amo Amo (C.H.); Doura (C.H.).
72. *Hypolycæna* (*phorbas*, Fabr.); Milne Bay (C.H.).

HESPERIDÆ.

73. *Pamphila matthias*, Fabr.; Doura (C.H.).
74. *Pamphila augias*, Linn.; Milne Bay (C.H.).
75. *Pamphila oliviscens*, Her. Schf.; Doura (C.H.); Milne Bay (C.H.).
76. *Pamphila flavovittata*, Latr.; Doura (C.H.); Milne Bay (C.H.).

H. TRYON.

Brisbane, 6th October 1890.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

List of the Mollusca collected by Sir W. MacGregor on the Fly River.

Reporter: C. HEDLEY.

The small collection of shells made by the expedition on the banks of the Fly River, though scanty, and evidently picked up in haste, embraces a new species of *Nanina*. This splendid species is by far the largest land-shell yet discovered in New Guinea, measuring 70 mill. in diameter as compared with 40 mm. of *N. doriæ*. Four specimens in a poor state of preservation furnish the data from which a description will be published shortly. The collection also includes:—

Geotrochus tomasinelliana, Tapparone-Canefri; 400 miles from the mouth. Two examples.

Geotrochus taumantias, Tapparone-Canefri; no precise locality. Two examples.

Geotrochus, sp.; a single specimen of a large and handsome species, evidently new, but too worn to describe.

Unio flyensis, Tapparone-Canefri; 400 miles from the mouth. Five single valves.

Unio anodontæformis, Tapperone-Canefri; 400 miles from the mouth. A single valve.

Battissa violacea, Lamarck; 400 miles from the mouth. Five single valves.

C. HEDLEY.
C. W. DE VIS,
Curator.

APPENDIX W.

Digest of Report on a Collection of Reptiles, Batrachians, and Fishes forwarded from St. Joseph River by Sir William MacGregor, Administrator of British New Guinea.

By J. D. OGILBY, Assistant in Zoology to the Australian Museum, Sydney.

The collection was made during April and May of the present year and received during the latter half of June. It consists of 11 species of reptiles, two of batrachians, and four of fishes, the latter being in every case too young for identification. The following is a complete list:—

Emydosauria.

Crocodilus porosus (young).

Lacertilia.

Lialis Burtoni.
Gonyocephalus modestus.
G. dilophus.
Lygosoma atrogulare (sp. nov.).
L. bicarinatum.
L. (sp. ?).
L. baudini.

Ophidia.

Morelia variegata ?.
Brachysoma triste.
Acanthophis prelongus.

Batrachia.

Hyla dolichopsis.
H. Macgregori (sp. nov.).

Pisces.

Eleotris (sp. ?).
Eleotris (sp. ?).
Plotosus (sp. ?).
Syngnathus (sp. ?).

Note on the Cicindelidæ, Carabidæ, and Buprestidæ among the Coleoptera from the St. Joseph River, New Guinea, received by the Australian Museum from Sir William MacGregor.

By THOMAS G. SLOANE, of the Australian Museum, Sydney.

The Australian Museum has lately received a collection of insects from the St. Joseph River, British New Guinea, sent by his Honour Sir William MacGregor. The Cicindelidæ, Carabidæ, and Buprestidæ have been placed in my hands for determination. These consist of:—

Cicindelidæ.

Therates basalis, *Dej.*; 1 specimen.
Tricondyla aperta, *Olivier*; 3 specimens.

Crabidæ.

Pseudoxæna tenebrosa (n. sp.); 1 specimen.
Chlænius binotatus, *Dej.*; 1 specimen.

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This species, of which Ch. maculifer, *Casteln.*, is a synonym, is also found in Australia, extending as far south as the Clarence river.

Platynus papuensis (n. sp.); 1 specimen.
Perigona ? (sp. ?).

A small black feronid belonging to the Platynini; I am not certain of the genus.

Buprestidæ.

Cyphogaster venerea, *Thom.*; 1 specimen.

LORD KNUTSFORD to Sir A. H. PALMER.

SIR, Downing Street, December 31, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir H. Norman's Despatch of the 12th of November, forwarding copies of the Annual Report of the Administrator of British New Guinea for the year ended the 30th of June last.

I notice with satisfaction the continued zeal and energy which are apparent in this record of the Administrator's work, and I concur in the view expressed by Sir S. W. Griffith and yourself as to its value.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KNUTSFORD.

The Officer Administering
the Government of Queensland.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1890–1891.

(For Report for 1889–90, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 6.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
March 1892.

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5	Newfoundland	"
6	British New Guinea	1889–90
7	St. Vincent	1890
8	Bermuda	"
9	Leeward Islands	1889
10	St. Lucia	1890
11	Bahamas	"
12	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
13	Gibraltar	"
14	Zululand	"
15	Sierra Leone	"
16	Barbados	"
17	Falkland Islands	"
18	Labuan	"
19	British Honduras	"
20	Basutoland	1890–91
21	Trinidad and Tobago	1890
22	Leeward Islands	"
23	Grenada	"
24	Straits Settlements	"
25	British Guiana	"
26	St. Helena	"
27	Mauritius	"
28	Gambia	"
29	Hong Kong	"
30	Ceylon	1889
31	Lagos	"
32	Lagos	1890
33	Ceylon	"
34	Newfoundland	"
35	Jamaica	1889–91
36	Victoria	1890

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.

No. 37.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

[For Report for 1889-90, *see* Colonial Report, [Annual], No. 6.]

No. 1.

Sir H. W. NORMAN to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Brisbane,
December 7, 1891.

MY LORD,

I DO myself the honour to transmit, for the information of your Lordship, six printed copies of a Despatch, dated the 25th ultimo, from his Honour Sir William MacGregor, submitting his Annual Report on British New Guinea for the year which ended on the 30th June 1891. I also enclose copy of a Minute by Sir Samuel Griffith, Chief Secretary of Queensland, dated the 4th instant, in reply to my memorandum in which I referred this Annual Report to him for remarks.

2. I concur with Sir Samuel Griffith that Sir William MacGregor's administration of British New Guinea during the first three years of his holding this office has been conspicuously successful, and I believe with him that, if the administration is continued on the same principles, the introduction of British rule will prove highly beneficial to the natives and honourable to the Empire.

3. Copies of all the Ordinances and Regulations referred to in the Report have already been placed before your Lordship, as well as the several reports of inspections and explorations, now given as Appendices A. to Q.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

The Right Hon.
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
December 4, 1891.

The Chief Secretary submits his duty to your Excellency, and has the honour to return Sir William MacGregor's Annual Report for the year from the 1st of July 1890 to the 30th June 1891, which the Chief Secretary has read with much interest.

The Chief Secretary was aware, before the appointment of Sir William MacGregor as administrator of British New Guinea, of his views as to the opportunity which would be afforded in the

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Possession for making a systematic attempt, such as probably had never been made before, to elevate an almost entirely uncivilised native race, without any exploitation of either their land or their capacity for labour.

Sir Samuel Griffith ventures to express his opinion that Sir William MacGregor's administration hitherto has been conspicuously successful, and he is confident that, if the future administration of the Possession is continued on the same principles, the British rule will prove beneficial to the native races and advantageous and honourable to the Empire.

(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH.

His Excellency
Sir Henry W. Norman, G.C.B.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Governor.

ANNUAL REPORT on BRITISH NEW GUINEA from 1st July 1890 to 30th June 1891.

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BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

SIR, Brisbane, November 25th, 1891.

IN compliance with Section XXXVI. of the Royal Instructions I have the honour to present the Annual Report on British New Guinea for the year ending on the 30th June 1891. The arrangement of the matters dealt with is as nearly as possible that adopted in the Annual Report for the preceding year.

Legislation.

2. Seven Ordinances were duly passed within the period embraced by this Report. The first of these, Ordinance No. IV. of 1890, appropriates 11,250*l.* for the ordinary services of the administration—namely, 2,475*l.* for the Civil List, which is reserved to Her Majesty by the Letters Patent; and 8,775*l.* for other services. These votes were to meet expenditure for the three last quarters of the year, the first quarter having been provided for by Ordinance No. II. of 1890. For the purposes of exploration the sum of 869*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* was set apart, being the unexpended balance to the credit of the Exploration Fund at the end of the previous financial year. For the maintenance of the s.s. "Merrie England" for the year ending on the 31st March, 1890 7,000*l.* was appropriated by the same Ordinance.

3. Ordinance No. V. of 1890 was passed to sanction what expenditure was made on certain services in addition to the sums set apart therefor by "The Appropriation Ordinance of 1889," viz., on vessels and boats, 310*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*; on miscellaneous, 1,443*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* The excesses of expenditure were covered by the savings effected on other items. The sum of 642*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, expended during the year from the Exploration Fund, was also sanctioned by this Ordinance.

4. Ordinance No. VI. of 1890 was passed by direction of the Secretary of State to amend "The Prisons Ordinance of 1889." It makes any Regulations passed under the Prisons Ordinance subject to disallowance by Her Majesty. It abolishes corporal punishment in the case of escaped convicted prisoners. It exempts debtors, persons confined for contempt or upon civil process, or for want of sureties to keep the peace, from the severer punishment provided in Sections XIX. and XX. of the Prisons Ordinance for prisoners assaulting prison officers or making their escape from prison. It also provides that "irons" shall be used only to prevent violence or escape and not as a punishment, and that prisoners shall not, except in cases of emergency, be required to work on Sundays and holidays.

5. Ordinance No. VII. of 1890, "To regulate the Dealing with Crown Lands," is the most important law passed during the year. Part I. regulates the settlement of land claims that date prior to the Declaration of Sovereignty. It directs that a Crown grant shall be issued for any land acquired on fair terms before a Protectorate was established over the territory, on the 6th

November 1884. As the purchase of land from natives was prohibited by proclamation at that date, it has been recognised that claims originating between the dates of the establishment of a Protectorate and of the Declaration of Sovereignty over the Possession are not entitled to the same consideration as those originating at a period when there were no restrictions as to purchasing land from native owners. In dealing with these the Administrator-in-Council may, therefore, use a discretionary power. *Bonâ fide* transactions in land entered into with the sanction of the Special Commissioner are recognised. Claims to land are to be forwarded to the Government Secretary, to be notified in the "Government Gazette," and after an inquiry has been made, and a full report in writing has been submitted, by a Resident Magistrate or some other officer, they are to be determined by the Administrator-in-Council. An applicant dissatisfied with the decision of the Administrator-in-Council may cause a full report of the case to be submitted for the instructions of one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, and these instructions when published in the "Government Gazette" become the final decision in the case.

Under "The Land Regulation Ordinance, 1888," no person can acquire any right, title, or interest in any land from a native owner, but the administrator may acquire land from natives to be held as Crown lands. Part II. of the Crown Lands Ordinance directs how such land, or an interest in such land, shall be acquired and the transaction be recorded. The transfer to the Crown is to be taken in the name of Her Majesty, and an attesting document is filed and recorded in the office of the Registrar-General. The Administrator cannot acquire land from the native owners if the latter require or are likely to require the land for their own use.

Waste and vacant lands not used nor likely to be required by the natives may be taken possession of by the Crown as Crown land. In such acquisitions an attesting instrument is to be prepared, with a full description of the land, and to be recorded in the office of the Registrar-General.

The Crown may afterwards enter on the register a disclaimer to any waste land so acquired, if after its acquisition any native owner can establish his right to it. When the Crown takes possession of waste or vacant lands the same is notified in the "Government Gazette."

Part III. gives power to prevent irregular settlement on land, and provides that persons taking possession of lands without having a legal right to do so may be removed.

By Part IV. the alienation of Crown lands in fee-simple is regulated. Lands may be sold by the Crown by private bargain or by public auction. Lands may be granted in trust for mission purposes at the price at which they were acquired by the Crown; but lands so granted revert to the Crown when no longer used for religious purposes.

In selling Crown lands as building allotments the Administrator-in-Council may impose such improvement conditions as may

be deemed expedient. Crown lands may be alienated for agricultural purposes at any price not less than 2*s.* 6*d.* an acre, when the sale is made conditional on the *bonâ fide* introduction into the district of some new industry.

When no obligations for carrying out improvements are imposed the minimum price of Crown land is:—

For agricultural land, 10*s.* an acre.
For pastoral land, 2*s.* an acre.
For land for trading or fishing purposes, 5*l.* an acre.
For land for the planting of cocoanuts, 5*s.* an acre.

Areas not exceeding 50 acres may be sold on deferred payments extending over five years, but in that case the price cannot be less than 1*l.* an acre.

Crown lands may be leased under Part V. of the Ordinance. Agricultural land may be leased without any conditions as to improvement at a minimum yearly rental of 1*s.* an acre; but if improvement conditions are imposed no rent may be payable for thre years, and after that period the lowest rent an acre is 6*d.* a year.

The maximum period of leases for agricultural lands is 25 years. Leases may contain purchasing clauses.

Land may be leased for the planting of cocoanuts for any period not exceeding 60 years. The most favourable terms permissible under the law for land leased for the planting of cocoanuts are:—No rent for the first five years; for the second five years 6*d.* an acre; and for the remainder of the lease 1*s.* an acre. Under every such lease one-fourth of the land leased must be planted within the first five years.

6. Ordinance No. I. of 1891 defines certain words and expressions usually employed in Ordinances, Rules, and Regulations. "The Acts Shortening Act of 1867" of Queensland is to be read and construed with the Ordinance.

7. Ordinance No. II. of 1891 makes provision for the custody and reform of native children. Mandates for the care and custody of children may be issued by the Administrator or by a magistrate. They may be issued in respect of a child duly convicted of an offence; or of any child that is proved to the satisfaction of the Administrator to have committed an offence; or of any child that is an orphan or is deserted by its relatives. The child may be confided to the care and custody of the person in charge of any mission station, or to a Government officer, or to some private person.

When a mandate is issued it puts an end to any judicial punishment the child may have been sentenced to undergo; and any judicial proceedings instituted against the child are abandoned. Provision is made that the child shall be properly fed and cared for by the person to whom he has been entrusted by mandate. No mandate can affect a child after he is 18 years of age. Every child placed under a mandate is visited and reported on at least once in every year by a Resident Magistrate.

8. Ordinance No. III. of 1891 regulates the Pearl-shell and Bêche-de-Mer Fishery. Every vessel engaged in the fishery within the waters of the Possession must be licensed. The license may be issued by a Resident Magistrate of the Possession or by the Principal Officer of Customs at Cooktown or at Thursday Island in Queensland. The license fee for a vessel of not more than ten tons is 1*l.*; for vessels exceeding 10 tons, 2*l.*; for every boat, 10*s.* These licenses expire on the 31st day of December in each year. Provision is made that all licensed vessels shall be marked and numbered; and also to compel the owner or master of a vessel engaged in the fishery to take out the license required for the vessel.

No person engaged in the fishery can use any Crown lands in connexion therewith without first obtaining an occupation license from a Resident Magistrate or officer of Customs. A fee of 5*l.* is payable for every such license. Every person in charge of a vessel engaged in the fishery and every person employed as a diver must hold a license, which can be obtained, wherever a vessel license is procurable, on payment of 1*l.*

If native labourers are engaged for the fishery for periods exceeding one month the engagement must be entered into before a Resident Magistrate or Customs officer; and all such labourers must, on completion of their engagements, be returned to their homes.

Regulations may be passed under the Ordinance fixing the minimum size of bêche-de-mer and of pearl-shell that may be collected, and for giving effect to the objects of the Ordinance.

9. During the year some progress was made in the formation of a code of the simplest laws that can be framed, which should be applicable to natives only. In all 15 Regulations were passed during the year. Of these the first 10 deal with procedure.

Regulation No. I. of 1890 shows that the Regulations apply only to the aboriginals of the Possession and to the natives of any adjacent country that live among them after the manner of natives. Districts for Native Courts are defined by the Administrator, and magistrates for native matters, who may be Europeans or natives, are appointed as such by the Administrator. No civil action or proceedings can lie against a magistrate for native affairs for anything done by him honestly and in good faith when acting, or when he believes himself to be acting, under the Regulations. In ordinary matters the process of a Court or the evidence taken need not be in writing. No act done under the Regulations is invalidated by reason of being performed on a Sunday or holiday.

In Regulation No. II. provision is made for summoning persons before the Court by means of a messenger furnished with a special token, which the messenger must show to the person summoned as evidence of his good faith. It is punishable for any person to have such a token unlawfully in his possession.

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Regulation No. III. regulates the sittings of Courts. There is no limit to the number of magistrates that may sit together. The senior magistrate is chairman, and the opinion of the majority is that of the Court. If persons summoned do not appear they may be arrested and brought before the Court by force; or a case may be decided in the absence of a person summoned, but who does not appear, on hearing the party that does appear.

At the trial of a case a magistrate informs the accused what is the nature of the charge against him. If he admits the charge he may be sentenced, or the Court may hear the case. A defendant may give evidence if he wishes to do so, but he cannot be compelled to do so except in civil cases. Magistrates summon before them persons residing in another district through the intervention of the magistrate of that district; and in a like manner a magistrate may procure that a sentenced person not residing in his district may be imprisoned by the magistrate of the district in which the prisoner resides. The Administrator may, where such a course is deemed necessary, authorise the arrest of persons in the first instance instead of summoning them. Persons that fail to appear before a Court when summoned to do so; that interrupt or interfere with a Court or obstruct any of its officers; or that disobey a lawful order issued by a magistrate, are on conviction deemed guilty of a forbidden act.

Regulation No. IV. deals with evidence. Witnesses are affirmed, after which they may be punished for giving false evidence. Magistrates are directed to obtain eye-witnesses whenever possible, and not to trust to hearsay evidence.

Magistrates can use voluntary confessions and admissions against an accused, but must first be satisfied that it was spontaneously made. All evidence against a person must be taken in his presence, unless he has failed to appear before the Court on being duly summoned there.

Under Regulation No. V. cases may be heard in English, or in any native language or dialect; but any words to be used against a person must be spoken in his presence and in a language he understands, unless he has failed to appear in Court.

Regulation No. VI. treats of imprisonment. If a European magistrate presides in a court, he determines when and in what manner a sentence of imprisonment shall be carried out, and whether a woman sentenced by the Court to undergo imprisonment shall actually be put in a prison. Any such order made by a non-European magistrate may be varied by a European magistrate. Prisoners may be employed on any public works, but are not to be made to work on Sundays nor for more than eight hours a day. A female cannot be imprisoned in any house not her own except on the order of a European magistrate, nor be made to work for more than four hours a day. By the order of a European magistrate a female may be imprisoned in a gaol or house, or be confined within certain limits. Prisoners not confined in their

own houses are provided with food. Escaping or attempting to escape from prison, aiding to escape from prison, and supplying any prisoner with anything not permitted by a magistrate, are made punishable.

Regulation No. VII. deals with forbidden acts and their punishment. Natives over 14 years of age guilty of a forbidden act may be sentenced to imprisonment not exceeding seven days if a European magistrate forms part of the Court; but to not more than three days if no European magistrate is present. Children under 14 years of age may be whipped by direction of the Court. A magistrate may, if no complainant comes forward, summon and try any person for a forbidden act. A person cannot be sentenced for a forbidden act committed more than six months before the date of the trial; nor can he be tried outside of the district in which the forbidden act was committed. All imprisonment is with hard labour unless the contrary has been expressly stated.

Under Regulation No. VIII. magistrates for native matters may make inquiry into alleged cases of murder, rape, assault, arson, and conspiracy to kill or seriously injure any person. The magistrate may summon before him any person that has any knowledge of the case. If the magistrate concludes that there are grounds for believing that the accused is guilty, and that the offence is more serious than a forbidden act that can be tried under the Native Regulations, he has to see that the accused is handed over to a Resident Magistrate.

Regulation No. IX. gives a jurisdiction to European magistrates for native affairs in civil matters. Magistrates who are natives cannot act in civil cases. These causes may embrace claims to property; rights to land, water, or reefs; rights to produce; claims for the recovery of money or property, and claims for compensation for injury to property.

Regulation No. X. requires magistrates that can write to forward reports to the Government Secretary.

Regulation No. XI. makes stealing a forbidden act. The punishment is imprisonment, which does not exceed seven days if the case is heard by a European magistrate, nor three days if heard by a non-European magistrate. No. XII. provides the same punishment for assaults and injuries when they are not of a serious character; and No. XIII. has the same penalty against burying the dead in villages for which a burying ground has been selected.

Regulation No. I. of 1891 amends No. XII. of 1890, and directs the magistrate to send a person accused of a serious assault to be tried by the Chief Judge. No. II. of 1891 provides a punishment of imprisonment for the spreading of lying reports and the use of threatening language; and No. III. forbids destroying cocoanut trees under a penalty of imprisonment.

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Administration of Justice.

10. No change was made during the year as regards the Central Court or Courts of Petty Sessions mentioned in para. 15 of last year's Report. Native Magistrates' Courts were established for dealing with cases under the Native Regulations in the several magisterial districts, and all the Resident Magistrates, the Government Agents in the Mekeo and Rigo Districts, and two Native Chiefs were appointed magistrates for native matters.

11. The following table of cases dealt with by the ordinary Courts has been prepared by the Hon. F. P. Winter, Chief Judicial Officer :—

MATTERS DEALT WITH JUDICIALLY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1891.

CENTRAL COURT.

Criminal Business.

Number of Persons committed for Trial.	District from which committed.	Persons committed—how disposed of.
14	Central District - -	3 committals quashed.
		11 tried.
13	Eastern District - -	12 tried.
		1 awaiting trial.
—	Western District - -	None.

The Court held Thirteen Criminal Sessions at the Places and Times, and with the Results, under-mentioned :—

No. of Persons tried.	Offence charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	SAMARAI—1st July 1890.		
1	(1) Murder, (2) Wounding with intent, &c.	Guilty wounding with intent to murder.	1 ten years' penal servitude.
	PORT MORESBY—25th August 1890.		
2	Murder - - -	2 guilty - - -	2 death.

No. of Persons tried.	Offence charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	PORT MORESBY—11th September 1890.		
8	Murder	6 guilty, 2 acquitted	6 death.
	PORT MORESBY—3rd December 1890.		
1	Murder	1 guilty	1 death.
	MUGULA (DUFAURE ISLAND)—5th January 1891.		
1	Murder	1 guilty	1 death.
	KARAIWA—15th January 1891.		
1	Murder	1 guilty manslaughter	1 two months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	TAGULA (SUDEST ISLAND)—19th January 1891.		
2	(1) Murder, (2) Wounding with intent to murder.	1 guilty murder, 1 guilty wounding with intent to murder.	1 death, 1 ten years' penal servitude.
	MURUA (WOODLARK ISLAND)—23rd January, 1891.		
3	(1) Murder, (2) Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.	1 guilty murder, 1 guilty wounding with intent, &c., 1 acquitted.	1 death, 1 twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	MILNE BAY—26th January 1891.		
1	Murder	1 guilty	1 death.
	SAMARAI—7th February 1891.		
1	Gaol breaking	1 guilty	1 one month's imprisonment with hard labour.
	ELLENGOWAN BAY—10th June 1891.		
1	Murder	1 guilty	1 death.
	TAUPUTU—15th June 1891.		
1	Murder	1 guilty	1 death.
	SAMARAI—25th June 1891.		
1	Unlawfully wounding	1 guilty	1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
Total 24			

Civil Business.

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings.	Amount involved.	Result.
		£ s. d.	
14	Applications for administration.	—	Granted.
3	Miscellaneous applications	—	Dealt with.
Total 17			

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COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Indictable Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Inquiry
Central district -	18	Murder - -	14 committed for trial.
			1 dealt with under 'Native Children Custody Ordinance."
			3 discharged.
Eastern district -	13	12 murder - -	12 committed for trial.
		1 gaol breaking -	1 discharged.
		1 unlawfully wounding.	1 awaiting trial.
Western district -	0		
	Total 31		

Summary Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central district -	9	Assault - - - -	6 convicted, 3 dismissed.
	1	Supplying liquor to native -	1 convicted.
	7	Larceny - - - -	5 convicted, dismissed.
	1	Desertion from ship - -	1 convicted.
	1	Vagrancy - - -	1 dismissed.
	1	Loitering about prison -	1 convicted.
	2	Injuring property - -	2 convicted.
	4	Using threatening language -	2 convicted, 2 dismissed.
Eastern district -	1	Larceny - - - -	Convicted.
	1	Receiving stolen goods -	Convicted.
	1	Wilful destruction of property	Convicted.
Western district -	0		
	Total 29		

Civil Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Actions tried.	Amount involved.	Result of Action.
		£ s. d.	
Central district -	1 wages - -	10 0 0	Verdict for defendant.
	1 goods sold - -	28 10 5	Verdict for plaintiff.
	1 goods sold - -	3 10 0	Verdict for plaintiff for 1*l.* 5*s.*
Eastern district -	1 breach of contract	25 0 0	Verdict for plaintiff.
Western district -	0		
Total - -	4		

TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court - - - - - - - -	27
In Lower Courts (exclusive of the 27 that went up to Central Court) - - - - - - -	33
In all Courts - - - - - - - -	60

TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court - - - - - - - -	17
In lower Courts - - - - - - - -	4
In all Courts - - - - - - - -	21

12. From these figures it will be seen that 15 persons were sentenced to undergo capital punishment. The sentence was carried out on five of the prisoners. Six were sentenced to death for the murder of a European. He was retaining a native woman in his house apparently against her will and inclination, and on this ground was concocted a conspiracy to murder him. The perpetrators were tried at Port Moresby. One of the convicts was executed at Port Moresby, and a second in the district where the murder was committed. The two executed were the principals; the sentences of the others were commuted. A native of Tagula (Sudest) was executed at Conde Point for the murder of a European, a digger who was working alone at the south-east end of the island. This man was murdered because he did not give for some native food as much tobacco as the owner wished to receive.

A native of Murua (Woodlark Island) was executed there for the murder of a European trader. The moving cause seems to have been plunder.

A native of the west end of Orangerie Bay was executed in that district for the murder of a European collector. In this case also the murder was committed that they might obtain for themselves the baggage and goods of the European.

It was considered that in all these cases it was absolutely necessary that the law should be allowed to take its course.

In most cases of native murder it has to be considered that the crime is committed in accordance with native customs and ideas. But this consideration does not apply to the murder of Europeans

by natives. In three of the four cases of the murder of Europeans mentioned above the natives implicated had no provocation nothing had been done by the victims which could, according even to native ethics, give any excuse for shedding blood. In the fourth case, in which provocation had been given, the sentence of the person that had suffered injustice was commuted to penal servitude for a term of years. The scenes of these murders and executions were so far apart from each other that each place spoke a separate language of its own, and none of the people of any one of them had any knowledge of the existence of those in any of the others. It was felt that severe measures in these cases would be the most merciful way of dealing with such matters; that only such a course would teach the natives the sacred character and value of human life, and prevent the commencement of racial reprisals. There is every reason to believe that a profound effect was produced in each case among the different tribes of the locality, and that, in a large degree owing to the impressive and patient way in which the trials were conducted, the natives were brought to regard the executions rather in the light of acts of justice than as revenge.

In the other cases in which a sentence of capital punishment was pronounced the murderers and victims were all natives, and in each case something was found in native custom which enabled the prerogative of mercy to be exercised in favour of the convict. Two natives were sentenced to undergo capital punishment for killing a woman of a neighbouring tribe to revenge the murder of a near relative by a member of that tribe. One man was convicted of having taken a little boy to the sea and of holding his head under water until he was dead, because he found the boy stealing in his house. Another man was found guilty of having killed his mother because he thought she was making him ill by witchcraft. Two were convicted of murder committed in continuing old intertribal warfare.

It will be noticed that a sentence of six months' imprisonment was recorded for unlawfully wounding. In this case a European of foreign nationality fired upon a native and inflicted considerable injury on him, because he said the native was addressing bad language to him. Only one case for supplying intoxicating liquor to natives came before the Court, and in that instance a conviction was obtained.

13. It was not until near the end of 1890 that the first of the Native Regulations were brought into force. All the magistrates for native matters were carefully instructed beforehand that these Regulations were to be put into operation gradually. Only some four or five cases were actually dealt with in each district during the few months of the year they were in operation. Light sentences were generally imposed, and in all cases as many natives as possible were had in attendance when a case was being heard. When the first case tried by the magistrate for the Mekeo District was being heard by the Court nearly 2,000 natives were present, and a great many of them remained at the station until the

termination of the 24 hours of imprisonment imposed on the prisoner. It was not so great a novelty in the Rigo District, as some of the natives of that district had already become acquainted with the prison at Port Moresby. The punishment of imprisonment was new to the natives of the Louisiades and of the Western Division, and for that reason imprisonment in the first cases was limited to a few hours in irons. In no case was any attempt made to liberate the prisoners. The Regulations have thus been quietly and gently introduced in all the districts except in that of the Resident Magistrate of Samarai. They were not acted on in that district in any case. It would, of course, be absurd to suppose that there were not many cases in which they could have been applied there; the Resident Magistrate has not been able to administer the Regulations and attend to other duties.

In the vicinity of Samarai, however, the natives are quite familiar with our imprisonment procedures, and no difficulty need be apprehended in working the Native Regulations there.

The magistrates for native matters have dealt with many cases of dispute among natives, and have generally settled them out of court. Their presence has been as useful in that direction as in repressing the specific offences made punishable under the Regulations.

Administrative Visits of Inspection.

14. A full account of several of the more important tours of inspection will be found in the Appendices.*

15. The Government Station at Samarai was visited in the end of June, 1890. At that time the settlement was, on the whole, retrograding. The Government buildings were found in good order except the gaol. The prisoners, nine in number, were in good physical condition, and the premises were kept clean. The London Missionary Society's Station in Tauwara (Milne) Bay was visited and the school examined. On the 2nd of July a large festival was witnessed at Mita in Tauwara Bay, at which a number of the leading men in the district were seen, and Jakoba, of Mita, pledged himself to build a suitable church. This he has done. On the 4th of July a call was made at Wari, and everything found to be in a satisfactory condition there. There was a large school attendance, and the principal man of the island was found to remain a firm supporter of the Government.

The islands of Bagavirana (Conflict Group) were visited on the way to Misima, and it was decided to advertise them as Crown lands available for lease or sale. It was found that the diggers and the natives were living in concord on Misima, but that the latter had given considerable provocation by pilfering from the camps of the diggers, and it was seen that it would be necessary to strengthen the hands of the Resident Magistrate. His quarters

* Not printed.

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had been shifted to Bogoya on the south side of the island where there is a small harbour At Tagula all was found quiet and peaceful, and neither diggers nor natives had any complaints to prefer against each other. There were about two score of diggers there, and about the same number on Misima. They were making little more than a bare living. The journey was extended as far as Roua (Rossel Island), where a large number of small and friendly tribes were met with and made acquainted with the Government.

In the middle of July a visit was made to Murua (Woodlark Island), and some of the principals in the murder of two European traders were secured without bloodshed, although a conflict was at one time imminent. The principal tribes on the island were visited, and the position of the Government was made clear to them. A hurried examination was made of a small part of the Trobriand Group, and the natives there were so far found to be friendly.

16. On the 17th of July an inspection was made of the small but interesting group of the Nada (Laughlan) Islands. The natives were found to be peaceful and to have made some advance in industrial pursuits, chiefly under the influence of Mr. Tetzlaff, a resident trader.

17. In the latter part of July three or four days were spent among the Awaiama tribes, the people who were severely punished because they had murdered Captain Ancell and sacked his vessel soon after the Declaration of Sovereignty. They were seen to be well disposed, hospitable to strangers, honest in their dealings with white men, and peaceful towards their neighbours, most of whom were visited at the same time. The neighbouring Tauputa tribe had, a few months previously, shown much kindness to some gold prospectors who reached their village in a distressed condition.

The steamer reached Cape Sebiribiri (Vogel) on the 27th July. All the principal tribes in that locality were visited. Some trepang fishermen had worked their way up the coast thus far, and some of the natives were procuring trepang for them. They left on one the impression that they were a quiet but oppressed people, requiring protection against more powerful neighbours. Some trepang fishers were met with as far north as the Sydney Islands, but the fishing was not very productive, and the coast was found to be poor and comparatively unfertile, while the native population is sparse in that locality. Some large tribes were met with in Collingwood Bay, all of which, with one exception, appeared to be peaceably disposed. Much of the country there is low, swampy, and covered by mangrove or by casuarina trees, but there is some good land, and there are large tribes in the north-west corner of the bay. At this time the volcanic nature of Mount Victory was clearly established, great clouds of steam being seen to issue from several places on its summit. At Cape Nelson many fine little harbours were entered, and peaceful relations were established with some powerful tribes there. These and the natives of Collingwood Bay seemed to be quite unacquainted with tobacco

and iron, but the place of the latter was better supplied in Collingwood Bay than is usually the case by very fine stone axes made of jade, which takes and keeps a fine edge, being both hard and tough. It is worthy of remark that jade axes have been met with only amongst some inland tribes in Cloudy Bay and among those in the head of Collingwood Bay. The inference would be that this mineral is from the neighbourhood of Mount Suckling, which lies between the two districts.

It was expected that a river of considerable size would be found in Dyke Acland Bay; but examination of the coast in the whaleboat showed that there are there only a few small creeks. The land near the coast is low, wooded, and wet; and the population, at least on the coast, is not great. Near the middle of Dyke Acland Bay the steamer was anchored, in order that the tribes living between the sea and Hydrographer's Range might be inspected. One of their villages had been visited some time before this by a foreign naturalist, who drove the people out of their village and appropriated and carried off their property, consisting of arms, implements, fishing and hunting gear, and who opened some of their graves in search of anatomical specimens. The property thus carried off was taken back and left by us in the village; but communication could not be established with the inhabitants, who fled to the forest before the steamer entered the bay. The inhabitants of the neighbouring villages were extremely suspicious and kept under arms, but some progress was made in allaying their apprehensions of evil. Several powerful tribes were found in Holincote Bay. Contrary to the general behaviour of natives under such circumstances they not only did not run and hide when they saw us, but were profuse in their invitations to us to land and trade with them. They did not appear disposed to be unfriendly, but unfortunately their language was quite unknown to us. There are no villages within nearly half a score of miles of Mitre Rock, which is the approximate boundary between Kaiser Wilhelms-Land and British New Guinea. The land in that vicinity seems to be very poor; it is hilly, wooded, and rocky.

18. The latter half of November and the first week in December were taken up by a visit to the Mekeo District. This district is very fertile and contains about a score of powerful tribes, amongst whom it was desirable to station an agent of the Government. An expedition, fitted out at the expense of the Royal Geographical Society of Victoria, was taken through this district to examine Kovio (Mount Yule) and its neighbourhood. The party was conducted to Amo Amo (Aku), from which the approach to Kovio seemed short, but it was found impossible to continue that route on account of the swampy nature of the country. A path had to be opened along the low spurs of the Mekeo Range until the Kovio hills were reached. The party were successful in reaching the top of the range, but less was added to our knowledge than might have been expected.

Land was purchased for a Government station near the middle of the Mekeo District, and a house was built for the Government

Agent, with the approval of at least the nearest tribes. The mission of the Sacred Heart Society was busy at the same time establishing itself in the district.

19. In December it was found necessary to proceed to Kabadi to curb the natives of that tribe. They had enjoyed the advantage of the teaching of the London Missionary Society for several years, but a lawless and irrepressible element had got the upper hand in the community, and they had relapsed into the worst phase of savagery. At least half-a-dozen murders had been committed by them in quite recent times, merely that the assassins should be entitled to wear certain head ornaments which are used to distinguish those that take a human life. They had also threatened to make war on their weaker neighbours and to resist the Government. The chief was taken to Port Moresby in irons, and the arms of the tribe were collected and burned in the square of their principal village. Some arrests were made, but no serious crime could be proved against the prisoners on trial, and they were acquitted. The district was, however, completely subjected to authority.

20. In the end of December the Koiari tribe was visited. They occupy the district inland from Port Moresby. They have probably over a score of little villages, which are politically of no great importance, as they are all small and isolated. Their country is hilly, but its productions are varied. Small areas of land might be found there for European settlement, but it would be difficult to transport produce to the coast. The people were found to be notably strong and healthy.

21. The station at Samarai was inspected in the end of December. It was not considered to be then in a good state as regards cultivation. The health and condition of the prisoners were satisfactory, and the building of the new gaol was being proceeded with. All the villages on Logea were visited. It was found the natives spend too much time at Samarai and neglect their own homes. A similar state of matters was seen at Sariba.

Early in January the steamer proceeded to the north side of Mugula (Dufaure Island), and a native of the west end of Orangerie Bay was tried in the presence of a large number of his countrymen for the murder of a European. All the villages of Mugula were visited, and all the principal men of the island were present at the trial, which ended in the conviction of the prisoner. Friendly relations were established with the Suabina tribe in the east end of Orangerie Bay. The Were-Were tribe on Pouro were also friendly, but an attempt to capture certain men of the neighbouring Silasila tribe for killing and eating a native from Orangerie Bay failed at that time, as the natives were successful in making their escape to the mountains. All that part of the country was found to be densely populated, and the rest of the tribes were quiet and friendly.

22. In January the Louisiade Islands were visited. On the 19th a sitting of the Central Court was held at Tagula (Sudest), at which two natives were tried for the murder of a European

digger. One was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude, the other to undergo capital punishment, which was carried out at the same place a few weeks later. The natives were peaceful. The natives of Misima were less thievish than formerly, and the Native Regulations were being very successfully inaugurated among them by Mr. Campbell. Over two dozen diggers were at work on that island, making bare wages, according to their own account. There was some scarcity of provisions amongst the diggers, as communication with Samarai or Cooktown was somewhat irregular. On the 21st January everything was found quiet at Nada, and a man named Sarras was, with the approval of the natives, appointed representative chief of the little group. On the 23rd three natives were tried before the Central Court at Murua for the murder of a European trader; one was acquitted, another was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment, and the third was sentenced to undergo capital punishment, which was carried out at the same place about two weeks later. The principal villages of the tribes concerned in these murders were visited. The natives fled, and only some of those on the coast were present at the trials. A few days later the principal tribes of Tauwara (Milne Bay) were visited, and at a sitting of the Central Court a native was found guilty of matricide. The natives were perfectly peaceful, none carried arms, and many of them were busy preparing copra for traders.

23. On the 9th February another attempt was made to deal with the Silasila tribe. An interview was had with their principal men, and they promised to surrender the actual murderers, but this they did not do.

24. In the beginning of March an administrative inspection of the Western Division was begun from Mabudauan Station. Fairly good houses had been built by Mr. Cameron, and a few acres of land were cleared and planted. A visit was paid to the friendly neighbouring Dabu tribe, and their chiefs afterwards accompanied us to the extremely savage Toga tribe, whose headquarters the Resident Magistrate had hitherto been unable to discover. They were found to be very wild, suspicious, and dangerous, but a friendly footing was established with them. Our boats went along the coast in search of the Tugeri marauders from Dutch New Guinea, but although the search was extended as far as the west end of Heath Bay they were not met with.

25. On the 12th March the villages of Mowatta and Kadawa were inspected. Considerable progress had been made there in house-building, fishing, and in repressing crime and disorder; and it was decided to establish there and in the neighbouring tribe of Turituri a commencement of a village police, and to appoint a native magistracy.

The inland tribe of Masingara was found to be very friendly and on good terms with the neighbouring coast tribes. They are a strong tribe and have evidently occupied their present lands for many generations, but have been practically cut off from the sea by intruding tribes. It is an established custom among them to chew and drink the *Piper methysticum*. Next day a strong force,

which was followed by several hundred natives, proceeded to the country of the Badu tribe, which had a few weeks previously made an attack on the Resident Magistrate and compelled his party to retire. They abandoned their houses and avoided communication with us, being afraid to renew hostilities. This visit had, however, the effect of destroying their prestige. All the coast tribes between Mabudauan and the Fly River were visited, and all were found quiet and peaceful. The owner of Yaru Island voluntarily gave up to the Government one-half of the frontage to the harbour; this has been cut up into suitable sections for those that wish to settle there for the bêche-de-mer and pearl-shell fisheries. There had been some disturbance between some of the tribes on Kiwai Island, but they were all at peace then, and it was found subsequently that the reports of intertribal hostility had been greatly exaggerated.

About the end of March the examination of the left bank of the Fly River was taken up where it had been left off the previous year. The principal chiefs of Kiwai Island were of the party. The first halt was made with the Gauoburarubi tribe, who, though at first shy and timid, entered on peaceful relations. Their country is very low and flat, and they seem to suffer much from elephantiasis. They were on friendly terms with their neighbours on each side, and will probably now become frequent visitors at Kiwai.

The Dibiri tribe live next to them on the seaward side. They were poor but friendly. Both tribes live chiefly on sago, for the growth of which their lands are well suited. They have had no intercourse with Europeans, but would be glad to trade with them for anything they have.

The end of the left bank of the Fly was rounded, and friendly relations established with the large tribe of Maipana who have their permanent settlements there. They speak a language closely related to that of Kiwai, and will be got to enter readily into trading relations with the tribes there. Several large villages were found on the Great Bamu River, which opens by three mouths into the western bight of the Gulf of Papua, but the natives were all terrified and would not come near us. It does not appear that they have had any intercourse with Europeans since they attacked Captain Blackwood, some 45 years ago, and the recollection of the punishment they then received is still fresh.

The mouths of the Bamu seem to have a depth of about a couple of fathoms, and there is a waterway of about the same depth between it and the Fly, which will be of great use to the traveller or trader. At nearly 30 miles from the sea a community occupying houses extending for nearly a mile along the river bank was met with. They were inclined at first to be unfriendly. They explained afterwards that this was because they had heard from the tribes below that if ever white men went near them it would be to shoot them. At 50 or 60 miles from the sea reside another tribe, on a branch of the Bamu called Aworra, and with them also friendly relations were, after some trouble, satis-

factorily established. These tribes live on sago and do not seem to plant anything. The country is flat, covered by dense forest, but whether high enough to be safe from flooding could not be determined. The soil is deep and rich.

26. In the end of May an inspection of the coast tribes was taken up at the east end of Cloudy Bay, and was extended, with a few breaks, as far as Samarai. All the branches of the Robinson River of the charts were followed up until they ended in small creeks. It was made clear that there is no river of any importance whatever in that part of the country. Search was made, but unsuccessfully, for a much dreaded inland tribe, but their village could not be discovered. A trader had prepared a permanent establishment for himself at the east point of the bay, and he intends to form a cocoanut plantation there. The tribes in that neighbourhood are beginning to look to the Government for protection, and are disposed to give more of their time to industrial pursuits. In the beginning of June the steamer was anchored near Ainioro, one of the so-called Amazon Islands, and many of the neighbouring tribes were visited from that point. They were all friendly and showed no hostile disposition, but several of those who live on the top of high and steep hills and cliffs were frightened and surprised by a visit to them by Europeans. Some of them were collecting trepang for the trader. Their country from Ainioro to the west end of Orangerie Bay is hilly, composed of limestone, and with light but fruitful soil, provided that it has plenty of rain. The fine harbours along that part of the coast were all examined, and the different tribes made to understand something of the position of the Government. They would be very willing to trade, but the fishery is miserably poor, and their country does not appear to produce at present anything that could be exported. Another visit was made to the Silasila tribe and their neighbours, and the murderer of the Orangerie Bay native was secured and convicted of the crime before the Central Court sitting in Silasila Bay.

27. The station at Samarai was again examined, and was found to be in a satisfactory condition. A neat little house had been built for each of the Papuan boatmen. They are desirous of remaining permanently in the service, and perform their duties remarkably well. The new gaol was complete, and was seen to be in every way suitable. On the 12th of June the steamer called in at Awaiama. This tribe was found to be quiet and industrious, and the chief came on to Tauputa, the next tribe on the north-east coast. There a sitting of the Central Court was held to try a native of the next tribe, the Agonai, for the murder of a native of the Wamira tribe, which lives north of Girumia. The Agonai had deserted their villages, and as no audience could be obtained there for the trial it was held at Tauputa, where it was witnessed by many natives. Some friendly intercourse was, however, had with the Agonai, and a visit was made to the tribes on Baunia (Bartle) Bay, who were found to be very peaceable people.

Thence the steamer proceeded to Korowea Bay, on Duau Island, at which place a Chinese trader had been murdered a few months previously. Friendly relations were established with some of the tribes, but the murderer escaped to the great mountain Soromonai, where he eluded pursuit for two or three weeks. The head of the victim was delivered up by the tribe in whose possession it was. Nearly all the tribes from Duchess Island to Dobu were made acquainted with the Government. All were friendly, but at first very timid and shy. The steamer reached Dobu on the 19th June, just in time to tow to an anchorage the vessel by which the founders of the Wesleyan Mission were arriving. All the tribes in the neighbourhood of Dobu were visited and instructed as to the arrival and the functions of the Mission.

28. In the end of June Pannaet and the neighbouring Louisiade Islands were inspected for the first time. At Pannaet nearly all the canoes used in the Louisiades are built, the natives there being industrious and intelligent. They had, however, a bad reputation among their neighbours. Some firearms were recovered from the natives of that group of islands, and several intertribal difficulties were settled. The auriferous reefs on the west end of Tagula (Sudest) were visited. The stone seen was considered sufficiently rich to be worked profitably, but the quantity obtainable may or may not be large. Several firearms—given by traders or diggers to natives as wages, or for gold washed out by the natives—were recovered. Relations between the natives and diggers were amicable. A visit was made to Conde Point, the place at which the native murderer of Bakem was executed. The natives were shy at first, but recognised the justice of the punishment that had been inflicted. All or nearly all the tribes on the south side of the islands were visited. The population is sparse; the villages few and small.

The route was continued to Kimuta, the natives of which were preparing copra and collecting trepang for the trader. At Bogoya, on Misima, it was found that the magistrate's quarters had been entered by some natives of Pannaet or Pannapompom and all the tobacco left there had been stolen. The thieves were arrested a few days later at Pannapompom. The Misima diggers complained that the natives who had ceased to steal before Mr. Campbell had left were again beginning to pilfer. The tribe complained of was subsequently interviewed and scared. They admitted the theft, and promised it would not be repeated. Many natives were regularly at work with the diggers at sluicing in the creeks. They were on the best of terms with each other. The disadvantages arising from the temporary absence of the Resident Magistrate of the district were, however, easily seen.

Government Property and Works.

29. Several purchases of land have been made for the Crown during the year, partly for permanent occupation by officers of

the Government, partly for settlers. Several of these acquisitions were in the neighbourhood of Port Moresby; two were in the Mekeo District. Directions were issued for registering certain waste and vacant lands as Crown lands, including amongst others the Conflict and Torlesse groups of islands. Some land was acquired for the Anglican, Wesleyan, London Missionary Society, and Sacred Heart Missions, but these were in small blocks of a few acres each.

30. There were built at Port Moresby during the year:—A prison containing eight large cells. This building is constructed of squared logs of mangrove wood, has an iron roof with a strong ceiling of timber, and a substantial wooden floor. It has a verandah back and front.

A good and comfortable warder's cottage of wood and iron was built near it, with a suitable kitchen, principally of iron, in which the food of prisoners, warders, &c. can be prepared.

Five houses of native materials, for the accommodation of the men of the armed constabulary. These are fitted with doors, bunks, tables, seats, &c., and are quite sufficient for the purposes for which they were intended.

Similar houses for the Papuan boatman employed there. A large house, of native materials, was also erected for the use of native visitors to the seat of Government.

A large share of the work incurred in building all these houses was done by prison labour.

A well was dug by prison labour some 200 or 300 yards from the prison and constabulary quarters, and piping laid down to carry water thither from a supply that so far seems to be permanent.

A substantial house of wood and iron was built, to be used as quarters for the constabulary officers and for the sittings of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Gleeson with prison labour built a powder magazine at a safe and convenient spot. The building is a strong and suitable one. When the prisoners have not been otherwise employed they have worked at a stone jetty which is being built into deep water near to the Government offices at Ela.

The Port Moresby prisoners have also kept in repair all roads and fences near that place.

At Samarai a very substantial prison was built of materials the same as those used in the Port Moresby prison. It is 51 feet long and 20 feet broad, and is divided into 10 cells, and furnished with a front and back verandah. Like the prison at Port Moresby it should be sufficient for several years to come. Nearly the whole of the island has been planted with cocoanuts, and very comfortable quarters have been built for all the natives employed at this station.

A commencement was made in filling in the swamp which occupies the middle of the island, but no substantial progress can be made in that respect until properly constructed trucks and rails have been provided.

In the Rigo District a good substantial house of sawn timber and galvanised iron was built for the Government Agent. The prison for this station is not yet completed. Mr. English has grown at the station all the food that was required for his men, and has sent considerable quantities to Port Moresby for the prisoners there. He also made some progress in opening a Government road, and had some rest-houses built for the accommodation of postal messengers.

In the Mekeo District houses of native material were constructed for the Government Agent and his men, and for the constabulary when quartered there. Some three or four acres of land have been cleared and planted, sufficient to grow food for the station. A well has been dug, a boat jetty built, and the whole of the cleared land has been planted in cocoanuts.

At Mabudauan a house of sawn timber and galvanised iron was put up for the Resident Magistrate, and houses of native materials built for the men stationed there and for the accommodation of visitors. A good boat jetty was also constructed, and several acres of land cleared and planted. The soil is, however, but poor. It is being planted in cocoanuts.

31. The most important work undertaken by the Government during the year was the planting of cocoanuts. It was mentioned in last year's Annual Report, paragraph 33, that 1,500 nuts had then been planted. That work has been continued, and there are now over 12,000 planted on Tauko Island alone. Mr. Gleeson, using prison labour, fortunately found fresh water on that island by digging. There is every reason to believe that it is now provided with a permanent water supply.

About 2,000 cocoanuts were planted on the mainland, at what appeared a suitable place, nearly opposite Tauko. In all, the Government has now planted, in round numbers, about 15,000 cocoanuts. It is considered to be very desirable that this be still further extended. If successful these plantations cannot but be an important item of revenue in half a score of years; and they will help to bring about direct shipments to the ports where cocoanuts are used for manufacturing purposes, a change which will be found necessary to the full development of the cocoanut industry in British New Guinea. For that industry one can with certainty predict a great future in the Possession, as it is provided with local cheap labour, and the cocoanut flourishes in the greatest luxuriance, and is never devastated by hurricanes there.

32. No important addition, except three new whaleboats, was made to the Government vessels during the year; but extensive repairs were carried out on the "Juanita," which was converted into a strong and very serviceable lugger, which is of the greatest use at the seat of Government. This vessel is now manned by Papuans when on service.

Establishments.

33. Officers employed in the service of the Possession during the year were as follows:—

Office.	Name.	Date of assuming Office.	Emoluments per Annum.
	Port Moresby.		
Administrator* - -	Sir William MacGregor, M.D., K.C.M.G.	4th September 1888 -	1,500*l.* and 200*l* allowance.
Private Secretary* -	The Hon. M. H. Moreton	7th November 1890 -	300*l.*
Chief Judicial Officer* -	The Hon. F. P. Winter -	25th October 1888 -	1,000*l.*
Government Secretary* -	The Hon. A. Musgrave -	4th September 1888	500*l.* and 200*l.* allowance.
Treasurer† - -	The Hon. T. H. Hatton-Richards.	1st October 1890 -	350*l.*
Commandant Armed Constabulary.	George Wriford - -	1st October 1890 -	300*l.*
Government Printer -	John George Allen -	4th September 1888	300*l.*
Government Storekeeper	A. W. Butterworth -	9th October 1890 -	200*l.*
Gaoler and Overseer -	Dennis Gleeson - -	4th September 1888	250*l.*
	Samarai.		
Sub-Collector of Customs	David Ballantine - -	25th July 1889 -	225*l.*
	Magisterial.		
Resident Magistrate, Eastern Division.	The Hon. B. A. Hely -	21st October 1888 -	500*l.*
Resident Magistrate, Louisiades.	W. T. Campbell‡ - -	7th November 1890	300*l.*
Resident Magistrate, Central Division.†	The Hon. F. E. P. Lawes	28th October 1890 -	350*l.*
Resident Magistrate, Western Division.	J. B. Cameron - -	11th September 1889	500*l.*
	Government Agents.		
Rigo District - -	A. C. English - -	28th June 1890 -	250*l.*
Mekeo District† - -	C. Kowald - - -	9th October 1890 -	200*l.*
	Government Vessels.		
Master s.s. "Merrie England."	James M. Hennessy -	6th August 1889 -	300*l.*
Chief Engineer, ditto -	Henry Phillips - -	8th August 1889 -	240*l.*
Master, schooner "Hygeia."	Colin Thomson - -	4th September 1888	240*l.*

* The above are provided for by the sums reserved to Her Majesty by the Letters Patent.
† New appointments.
‡ Resigned through ill-health, 26th June; duties now discharged by Mr. Neville Chester.

34. Many officers suffered from attacks of fever, more or less severe, but there was no really serious case. On the whole the amount of sickness was less than might have been expected.

Contrary to what might have been looked for, the officers longest in the country seemed to suffer at least as much from fever as the more recent arrivals.

35. In the early part of the year the strength of the service was raised to about the full force that can be kept up on the available 15,000*l.* a year. That is far short of what would be required to bring the whole of the Possession under the control of the Government within a brief period. This will be readily seen if it is borne in mind that the total area of the Colony is in round numbers about 90,000 square miles, with a coast line of 1,320 miles on the mainland, and about 1,070 miles on the islands.

36. Considerable progress was made in organising an armed constabulary force. By the kind co-operation of Sir John B. Thurston, Governor of Fiji, 14 men—12 Solomon islanders and two Fijians—were recruited in that Colony after careful selection by Dr. Corney, chief medical officer of Fiji. Captain Castle, of H.M.S. "Rapid," was good enough to bring the men direct from Fiji to Samarai, a very great advantage to the Possession as regards cost, but still greater as concerning the health of the men. Eight Papuans were gradually added to the force by voluntary enlistment, and they promise to become very active and serviceable constables. It was not an easy matter to procure recruits at first. The native is, in the very great majority of cases, married before he is of age to serve as a constable, and very few husbands or fathers are willing to leave their wives and children to become constables. It is found, however, that as the force gains prestige and importance in the eyes of the people it becomes easier to find recruits. No native of the Central District, which includes Port Moresby, has joined. The health of the men has on the whole been good, although they have been much exposed, but there have been many mild cases of fever amongst them. They sustained no casualties in the execution of their duty.

37. All the boats' crews employed at Port Moresby were Papuans, and so were the station police in charge of the Government Agents at Mekeo and Rigo. Half the number of men posted with the magistrate in the Western Division were Polynesians and the other half Papuans, and a similar arrangement was adopted for the establishment in the Louisiades. All the men employed at Samarai were natives of the country except the gaol warder, who is a Polynesian. Very considerable progress has been made by these native labourers during the last year or two.

38. In addition to the natives in the regular employment of the Government the services of men have sometimes been obtained as special constables, receiving some small remuneration for the time they are employed. This plan is well worth extension, as it tends better than almost anything else to establish among the people themselves a fairly sound idea as to the duty of the Government in repressing crime and maintaining order. Numbers of natives were so employed in all the districts, and on several occasions they showed a decided aptitude for police work. They appeared to be

quite trustworthy; but of course great caution has be observed at first in such matters.

39. Mr. Hatton Richards and Mr. Lawes were appointed permanent members of the Legislative Council, Mr. A. C. English and Mr. C. Kowald were added to the Native Regulation Board. The Government Secretary having been relieved of the duties of Treasurer by the appointment of Mr. Richards, was appointed local auditor, which makes it possible to have a complete audit of receipt accounts on the spot, and supplies a pre-audit for payments.

TRADE.

40. Detailed statistics will be found in the Appendix* on Imports, Exports, Navigation, and Postal matters.

Imports.

The total value of imports entered at Port Moresby and Samarai respectively has been:—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1888–89 - -	6,016 13 2	5,091 19 0	11,108 12 2
1889–90 - -	6,798 13 0	9,305 10 0	16,104 3 0
1890–91 - -	7,455 7 6	8,075 2 1	15,530 9 7

The principal items were:—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.
	£	£	£
Food stuffs - - -	5,400	7,124	4,463
Drapery - - - -	1,185	1,392	1,457
Tobacco and cigars - -	996	1,290	2,354
Hardware (including grindery) -	927	1,123	1,535
Beverages - - - -	805	1,143	688
Clothes - - - -	550	190	255
Building materials - - -	246	1,086	1,224
Other articles - - -	999	2,756	3,554
Total - - -	11,108	16,104	15,530

* Not printed.

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Exports.

The total value of exports has been :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888–89 - -	5,071	871	5,943
1889–90 - -	5,458	997	6,455
1890–91 - -	7,678	755	8,134

In the above the gold obtained by the diggers at work in the Possession is not included except to the value of 603*l.* It was shipped direct from the goldfields to Australia, as vessels were allowed to visit them after clearing outward at Samarai. Mr. Burkitt has again kindly furnished me with information as to the gold entered at the Custom House at Cooktown from British New Guinea. There is no record of that which may have been sent away through other channels.

Gold entered at the Custom-House, Cooktown, from British New Guinea :—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.
Ounces - -	3,850	3,470	2,426
Value - -	£14,387	£12,440	£8,371

During the first of these three years there were at one time from 700 to 800 men on the fields. Last year the number would average about four score. They are now principally men that are acclimatised and who possess such knowledge of the natives and of the country as often gives them great advantage over any new comers. The latter are not likely to do much. The fields are fully occupied. Next to gold the most important export is bêche-de-mer. The produce of this fishery for the last three years has been :—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.
Tons - -	38½	70¼	64¼
Value - -	£2,178	£4,682	£5,030

This industry has been pushed up the north-east coast, and there is now probably little or no new fishing ground to be discovered.

The pearl-shell fishery continues to decline in importance, not from want of shell of good quality, but because it lies in water too deep to be worked by any ordinary diving apparatus. The shell collected in the waters of the Possession by boats from Queensland ports is not included in these tables.

The value of the pearl-shell entered at the Custom House for export has been :—

	£
1888–89 - - - -	1,510
1889–90 - - - -	1,050
1890–91 - - - -	85

Copra is a much more promising export. Of it there has been entered outwards :—

1888–89 - -	76 tons, valued at	550*l.*
1889–90 - -	43 „ „	250*l.*
1890–91 - -	198 „ „	1,433*l.*

Shipping.

41. No foreign shipping was entered or cleared. In the comparative table below ships of war and vessels belonging to the Government of the Possession are not included :—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.
Seagoing vessels -	Entered, 47; tonnage, 4,108.	Entered, 45; tonnage, 3,727.	Entered, 37; tonnage, 2,950.
	Cleared, 38; tonnage, 3,284.	Cleared, 45; tonnage, 3,520.	Cleared, 30; tonnage, 2,537.
Vessels coastwise -	Entered, 151; tonnage, 3,374.	Entered, 47; tonnage, 2,170.	Entered, 27; tonnage, 1,647.
	Cleared, 150; tonnage, 3,668.	Cleared, 51; tonnage, 2,767.	Cleared, 31; tonnage, 1,828.

Everything possible is done to facilitate the movements of shipping; for example, Customs dues are collected at Thursday Island on goods for Roro (Yule Island), so that a vessel can discharge cargo there on the way to Port Moresby; and vessels are cleared outwards at Samarai for Cooktown by way of the Louisiades, &c.

Postal.

42. In the absence of a subsidised mail service the receipt and despatch of mails has been irregular. The mail matter dealt with is contrasted below with that of previous years :—

Article.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.
Letters received - - -	2,366	3,166	2,664
Letters despatched - -	2,587	2,586	2,191
Packets received - -	93	111	142
Packets despatched - -	98	84	88
Newspapers received - -	4,071	6,844	6,042
Newspapers despatched - -	574	590	468

The Possession has in postal matters been treated as a postal district of Queensland, using Queensland stamps, and receiving and forwarding practically all mails through that Colony. In this way the Possession does not require to enter into any separate arrangement on its own account with regard to foreign mails.

Mission Work.

43. This has been in a transition stage during the year, and measures have been in preparation for greatly extended work by the London Missionary Society, the Society of the Sacred Heart, the Anglican Mission, and the Wesleyan Mission.

The Rev. James Chalmers recruited a number of new teachers in the Pacific Islands. His colleague, the Rev. W. G. Lawes, has been seeing his translation of the New Testament into Motu put through the press in England.

The schools of this Mission at Port Moresby were inspected and afforded an excellent example of the invaluable work performed by this mission in educating the natives. Some of their scholars have already been doing occasional clerical work for the Government, and in probably a short time some of them will be capable of being regularly employed as copying clerks.

Solid improvements have been carried on at Kwato by the Rev. F. W. Walker, and the Rev. W. Pearse has continued his steady labours in his excellent training school at Kerepunu.

Bishop Verjus has been actively pushing forward mission work in the Mekeo District and its vicinity. He opened schools at four or five different places on the mainland. This mission has suffered a great loss in being temporarily deprived, by severe illness, of the valuable services of Père Tousblanc, the result of whose labours at Mou was seen in a good school and in the

greatly improved behaviour of the people. Some of the Sisters established themselves permanently in the Mekeo District, and have, it is to be feared, had to put up with not a little hardship. There were several serious cases of illness among the members of this mission, but on the whole not so much as in previous years. Their district does not seem to be a very healthy one, and they appear to often exert themselves beyond their strength.

The Wesleyan and Anglican Missions did not begin work within the year.

All mission stations were visited whenever it was possible to do so, especially those in charge of non-European missionaries. It need hardly be said that they all loyally support authority, and teach the natives that they are subjects of the Queen, and owe obedience to Her Government in the Possession.

Land.

44. Further experience and more extended knowledge of the country has only confirmed the opinion formerly expressed, that any plan for the systematic settlement of an agricultural population of Europeans in the country is inadmissible. It is highly improbable that people of European descent could ever perform continuous manual labour in the field there, unless it were at a high altitude on the great mountain ranges; and from these produce could not be removed to the coast save at ruinous expense.

The diggers at work in the Louisiades toil hard and steadily, but they are generally shaded by the forest for the greater part of the day, and also in a great many cases are working in water. The conditions are entirely different from those of field labour.

The position of Europeans in the Colony can, speaking generally, only be to supervise field labour performed by coloured men, and to work under shade or cover of some kind.

There is no doubt that areas of good land of a few hundred acres each are procurable at very many places in the Possession, suitable for almost any form of tropical cultivation. This seems to offer a good field to industrious men with small capital. It has been mentioned above (paragraph 5) that such land can be alienated to the *bonâ fide* settler at a minimum price of 2*s.* 6*d.* an acre. There is every reason to believe that men with some knowledge of the cultivation and preparation for the market of tobacco, tea, coffee, vanilla, bananas, fibres, cocoanuts, &c. would find good local labour, and soil and climate suited to any branch they took up. The natives in some of the best agricultural districts show some aptitude for cultivating new products, and they would probably soon imitate systematic cultivation for export.

The agricultural settler who is prepared to turn the land to use is the only land purchaser for whom there is any opening, and unfortunately that class of man it is difficult to obtain, although every possible facility would be offered to him.

45. About four score of claims to land alleged to have been acquired prior to the proclamation of Her Majesty's Protectorate

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over the territory on the 6th November 1884 have been received. The list is probably not yet complete, but it is not unlikely that several of them will be abandoned by the claimants when called upon to guarantee the costs of investigating the claim.

In the majority of these claims the area is not stated. The largest is for 10,890 acres, the others probably do not amount altogether to half that area.

Twenty-three claims for land acquired subsequent to the 6th November 1884 have been lodged. It would appear from the date of some of these that if the land was actually purchased it was in violation of the provisions of Ordinance No. II. of 1888, which makes it a penal offence for any person to purchase land direct from a native.

All these claims are for building sites with perhaps some garden land attached.

Exclusive of applications for land for mission sites, 33 applications for land by lease or purchase have been received. Six of these were for large areas, so extensive that each of them would have covered the lands of several native tribes. None of these could be entertained.

All those required for *bonâ fide* settlement, for planting, or for residential purposes, have either already been granted or will receive favourable consideration.

The services of a small survey staff have recently been obtained, so that claims to and applications for land can now be finally disposed of.

Population.

46. No attempt at any actual enumeration of the native population of the Possession could be made. There are doubtless many hundreds of tribes in the interior that have not yet seen a white man. It is, therefore, impossible to give anything more than a rude guess at the total of the indigenous population. It is, however, certainly much more than the official estimate of 150,000 hitherto given, a figure that would be covered by the east end and islands alone. It can hardly be less than 300,000, and probably 350,000 would be a fair estimate.

It is, of course, quite impossible to say whether it is increasing or diminishing; clearly certain districts are now over-populated, whilst others could support a much larger population.

Violence has hitherto been the principal agent in reducing the numbers of the people or in restraining their increase. That is now daily falling more and more into disuse; and so long as such diseases as dysentery, smallpox, &c. are unknown to the country, there can be but little doubt that the native population will increase, for at present they suffer from no disease that could thin their numbers.

The non-native population of the Possession in April was about 272, made up as follows:—

Nationality.	Males.	Females.	Total.
British - - -	112	3	115
German - - -	4	—	4
Italian - - -	2	—	2
French - - -	12	8	20
Other Europeans - -	13	—	13
American - -	2	—	2
West Indian - -	6	—	6
Chinese - - -	3	—	3
Malays and Javanese -	18	—	18
Polynesian - -	56	33	89
	228	44	272

Prisons.

47. As no report has been received from the Resident Magistrate at Samarai the number of prisoners confined there cannot be stated. It would probably average about half a score. Their health has been good. The services of a chaplain for the Samarai prison were provided by the Rev. F. W. Walker.

On the 30th June 14 males and two females were in prison at Port Moresby; 27 persons were received into prison, and 21 were discharged. The greatest number in gaol at any one time was 21, and the smallest number 14. Under the excellent supervision of Mr. D. Gleeson, good discipline was maintained, at the same time that the prisoners were kindly treated; and the result was that much useful work was performed by the prisoners, that they enjoyed good health, and were much improved morally and physically.

During the first year of the Administration the health of the prisoners was very unsatisfactory; but under a system by which they are kept in the open air all day, and with good prison accommodation, fair diet, and reasonable steady work, their health has become all that could be desired. They have school for about half an hour in the middle of the day, and have divine worship on Sunday under a native chaplain from the London Missionary Society's Training College at Port Moresby.

At first the dread of imprisonment was very great to the native, but now it begins to lose some of its terrors. Some of the

tribes are now coming to regard imprisonment as a mark of disgrace, and the natives employed in the Government service will sometimes refuse to associate with or take their food with a native prisoner.

Attempts to escape from prison, at first incessant, are now becoming more rare; and it was lately even found possible to detain some natives for a few days' imprisonment without putting them in leg-irons when out at work. But some of those undergoing longer terms of imprisonment asked that their leg-irons should not be removed, because they were sure they would some day run away if they had an opportunity.

FINANCE.

Revenue.

48. The total revenue collected and paid over to the Treasury of Queensland was 2,673*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* It is contrasted with that of the two preceding years below :—

Items.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Customs dues - -	2,419 10 2	2,893 10 4	2,525 13 2
Goldfield receipts -	187 17 0	20 15 0	23 0 0
Shipping fees, &c. -	1 18 0	4 10 0	4 3 0
Fines - - -	25 13 6	41 10 0	46 5 0
Licenses - - -	2 0 0	11 0 0	21 0 0
Miscellaneous - -	42 13 2	44 8 0	53 18 2
Total - -	£2,679 11 10	£3,015 13 4	£2,673 19 4

There is no reason to expect any considerable growth in the revenue until some means are found of increasing the trade products of the country, and until the cocoanut plantations of the Crown come into bearing. An increase or decrease in the numbers of gold diggers in the Possession makes but little difference to the revenue, as their food is nearly all exempt from duty, and they do not spend much on anything else besides the small stock of tobacco they require.

Expenditure.

49. The actual expenditure charged to the 15,000*l.* guaranteed for the necessary expenses of the administration was 15,000*l.*

It is classified below, and is compared with the expenditure of the two preceding years :—

Head of Expenditure.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Civil List salaries -	2,633 19 7	3,390 0 0	3,290 12 8
Other salaries - -	1,796 0 6	2,381 18 6	3,476 10 5
Vessels and boats -	2,747 11 4	2,564 3 0	2,938 16 3
Allowances—house and travelling—for all officers and employés.	1,296 13 11	2,548 3 2	1,500 0 0
Buildings - -	185 1 10	1,144 19 3	979 0 8
Agriculture - -	2 10 0	137 11 9	355 9 2
Mail service - -	445 0 0	—	—
Miscellaneous (including stores).	1,662 14 1	2,898 9 8	2,459 10 10
Totals - -	£10,769 11 3	£14,975 5 4	£15,000 0 0

Exploration Fund.

The amount available under this head was 869*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* Of this only 152*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* was expended, leaving a balance at the 30th June last to be carried forward for the same purpose of 717*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*

50. For the maintenance of the s.s. "Merrie England," 5,000*l.* was provided from Imperial funds and 2,000*l.* by the contributing Colonies. The gross disbursements on account of this vessel amounted to 7,386*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* But deducting from that the sums received as passage money and for the victualling of officers, 445*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, the net expenditure was 6,940*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*

According to a return prepared by Captain Hennessy the distance run by the steamer was 14,218 miles. The average expenditure on coal was about 2*s.* a mile. The price of coal was about 2*l.* 15*s.* a ton, and the quantity required in steaming 24 hours about seven tons and a half.

51. No change was made in the tariff, which therefore remains the same as for the previous year. (*Vide* pages 293–297 of [C. 5883], August 1889.)

Native Dialects.

52. No opportunity was lost of adding to our knowledge of the different natives tongues. In this laborious task valuable assistance has been given by Mr. F. E. Lawes, who himself prepared the

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Sinaugolo dialect, and gave also some time and trouble to the revision and extension of the Toaripi and Domara-Mairu languages. In the Mairu part of this language, Laka, the L.M.S. teacher at Ainioro, a pupil of the Rev. G. W. Lawes, did a good share. Mr. Cameron did useful work in extending the Dabu language; and Mr. Tetzlaff rendered willing and useful aid in the Nada tongue.

Mr. R. Guise has drawn up the larger portion of the Bula'a dialect, and has carefully revised and corrected it.

53. Perhaps the most interesting of the seven vocabularies attached* is that of the Dabu tongue, on account of its geographical position and the sharp lines of difference between it and the Kiwai-Mowatta language, and the dialect spoken at Saibai, Boigu, &c. These latter dialects are given in last year's Annual Report. Many words in Dabu end in a consonant—g, l, m, n, t, p, r, k; and the "ng" is not uncommon. In this respect it more closely resembles the Saibai than the Kiwai language. It is just possible that the roots of a few Polynesian words may exist in Dabu, as perhaps "papapi," butterfly (but the more common word is nipurigan, so that "papapi" may be introduced); "ngoi," cocoanut. But such words as those for "boy," "hand," "cooking-pot," "canoe," "come," "death," "eye," "hand," "louse," "mother," "river," "sago," &c., seem to have no connexion with the words that generally denote those objects over much of the Pacific and of the Possession east of the Gulf of Papua. So different are the coast languages on the west of the Papuan Gulf from those east of it that it seem improbable that the western dialects can have given rise to the eastern, or *vice versâ*. If they had a common origin it must have been very remote.

In the Domara-Mairu dialect words are generally the same for, or are understood at, both places when they are printed only under one. The Nada dialect is interesting as forming the language spoken at the extreme north-east corner of the Possession. It will be seen that Nala and Sinaugola have strong affinities to the central and eastern languages of the Possession as well as to the Polynesian languages. It is somewhat surprising that Motu should differ so widely as it does from Toaripi, seeing that from time immemorial those tribes have traded with each other. In trading operations, however, they seem to use a jargon that is blended from both languages.

It is tolerably clear that the trading and working language of the west end, of the east end, and of the islands, will be English. The most widely known language in the central districts is Motu; but eventually English will there also become prevalent. Motu is easily acquired by other tribes, and it spreads from the Government stations and from some of the mission stations. But a knowledge of the rudiments of the different dialects is of great value in leading the different tribes towards either English or Motu. As a rule the natives are very proud of knowing a few words of English. Nothing could be more comical than to witness

* Not printed.

the important and superior bearing of, say, a native of Sudest conversing with a native of Woodlark Island in a common vocabulary of a score of words of not very pure English. They are often bashful in speaking English to a white man, but they are not so in using English among themselves when they know no common native language.

Scientific Contributions.

54. In the Geological Department Mr. Jack shows that the specimens brought from the upper reaches of the Fly River contained gold, topaz, beryl, and lignites. The latter seem to be of no value.

Unfortunately the fossils have not yet been reported on, as Mr. Etheridge has been unable to examine them without certain works of reference which are not easily obtained, but are now being procured.

Mr. Jack classes the jade of Collingwood Bay with that of New Zealand.

Mapudauan Hill, the only hill on the New Guinea coast between the Dutch boundary and the Gulf of Papua, is shown to consist of granite containing large porphyritic crystals of felspar.

The specimens collected by the Royal Geographical Society's expedition to Mount Kovio (Yule) seem to show that the ranges there are generally composed of andesite formations.

A visit was made to the Possession during the latter part of the year by Mr. Maitland, of the Queensland Geological Survey. His report, which must be of great interest, will appear in next Annual Report.

55. During the winter of 1890 Mr. Charles Hedley, F.L.S. then on the staff of the Queensland Museum, volunteered for service as a naturalist in the Possession. His collections were, on his return, handed over to the Queensland Museum. The lepidoptera therein contained were described by Mr. Henry Tryon in my last Annual Report. A further report * from Mr. Tryon will be found at page 99. The land shells were confided to Mr. Hedley, an expert in that branch, who examined them and prepared illustrations at his own expense.

A brief note * on the botanical collections will be found from the Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller at page 106. There was but little opportunity of adding much to our knowledge of the flora. Probably most of the more common flowering plants of the low lands have already been examined. But much remains to do in examining the trees of the low country, and to complete the highland flora.

In Appendix CC * will be found an interesting account of the examinations made by Mr. C. W. De Vis, of the Queensland Museum, of the fauna submitted to him for that purpose. It is in contemplation to set apart at once a floor in the Queensland

* Not printed.

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Museum for British New Guinea collections. This is now quite necessary, as they are already varied and extensive.

The land shells confided to Mr. Hedley formed the basis of a lengthy paper published in Vol. vi. (ser. 2) of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, pp. 67–116, plates ix., x., xi., xii., and xii. bis, under the title of "The Land Mollascan Fauna of British New Guinea." An examination of that report will show how thorough is the work that has been done by Mr. Hedley, who devoted to it the labour of several months. Three genera— viz., Helicarion, Succinea, and Diplommatina—are for the first time recorded from the island.

The geographical relations of the fauna are discussed at some length, and an epitome is given of the history of its investigation. All the species obtained by previous travellers are detailed with their range, synonomy, and bibliography. Altogether 110 species are catalogued, of which the following 25 are described as new :—

Oxytes hercules.
„ flyensis.
Microcystina calcarata.
Helicarion visa.
„ musgravei.
Charopa texta.
Cristigibba macgregori.
Helix bevani.
Geotrochus elisus.
„ trobriandensis.
Cochlostyla papuensis.
Partula occidentalis.
Omphalotropis brajieri.
Omphalotropis protracta.
Bellardiella minor.
Pupinella tapparonei.
Pupina ovalis.
„ gibba.
Diplommatina symmetrica.
Cyclotus horridus.
„ kowaldi.
„ belfordi.
Leptopoma parvum.
Helicina insularum.
„ multicoronata.

All these are figured as well as the following species, of which descriptions alone have been hitherto published :—

Corulus starkei.
„ maino.
Microcystina sappho.
Thalassia annula.
Ochthephila albertisi.
Rhytida globosa.
Geotrochus tapparonei.
„ brumeriensis (animal).
„ oxystoma.
Succinea simplex.
Helicina woodlarkensis.
„ maino.

An account of the anatomy of several of the most important of these forms is in course of publication. In the intervals of official duties Mr. Hedley hopes to finish shortly an account of the new species of marine mollusca he collected on the coasts of New Guinea.

Reports by Officers.

56. Mr. Cameron in his report on his district,* gives a brief account of his operations during the year, and shows how he has established himself in the district.

* Not printed.

The report * of Mr. F. E. Lawes on the Central District shows that he visited a great many places in his jurisdiction, and that decided advances are being made at many points.

Mr. A. C. English gives a satisfactory account * of the progress of order and authority as illustrated by details in the Rigo District. His efforts have met with much success.

At page 83 will be found a short report * from Mr. Campbell on the Louisiade District. That officer was quickly effecting a marked improvement on the more intractable tribes in his district, and his retirement—necessitated from reasons of health—was a distinct loss to the Service.

The Commandant gives an account * of the details of organisation of the armed constabulary, and of the duties performed by the force.

All these reports will be found to be of much interest. No report has been received from the magistrate of the Eastern Division, a matter which is much to be regretted, as the natives of that part of the Possession seem to be very apt in learning the rudiments of civilisation and order.

General.

57. The usual annual journey was made by me to Brisbane on duty in the end of August.

The estimates of expenditure were discussed there, several draft Ordinances were considered, and arrangements were made for the maintenance of the s.s. "Merrie England"; and many other matters of business were transacted. In all these Sir Samuel W. Griffith, Premier of Queensland, gave valuable assistance, both personally in revising draft Ordinances and by suggestions on general matters, as well as in causing the steamer to be refitted under Government supervision, and by rendering the Possession important services through many of the departments of the public service in Brisbane. The thanks of the Government of the Possession are specially due to Mr. A. McDowall, the Surveyor-General of Queensland, who has rendered it much valuable assistance during the year; and to Captain Almond, Portmaster of Brisbane, for supervising the refitting of the steamer.

During my absence from the Possession Mr. Winter acted as Deputy Administrator to my entire satisfaction.

58. In closing this record of the year it must be said that on the whole the results have been fairly satisfactory. At times the progress made in certain districts has been full of promise and encouragement; but not infrequently there have been relapses.

A very large proportion of the coast tribes now understand that a Government has been established. Hundreds of them ask for Government interference when they get into trouble with their neighbours. Over a great part of the coast line the crew of a wrecked canoe or boat would now not only not be murdered but

* Not printed.

would receive assistance. Many scores of tribes that a couple of years ago kept watch all night lest they should be cut off before morning now sleep soundly, feeling safe in the name of the Government.

At some points they begin to plant cocoanuts for the future, knowing that they will be able to reap the fruits of their labours.

But the time has not yet come, but is coming, when a Native Regulation can be passed requiring each man to plant a certain number of cocoanuts a year.

But the above is only a small beginning to overcome administrative difficulties that are probably unique in the history of the Empire. Never before has any systematic attempt been made to bring into the paths of civilisation and industry a race covering so large an area and so far behind other aboriginal races in civilisation and political organisation. It is quite certain that the Papuan, left to himself, would not for ages to come have worked out on his account the stage in civilisation reached by the Polynesian. New Guinea seems to have been left behind—ignored by all the rest of the settled world. It does not seem to have ever produced a man capable of uniting the inhabitants of two contiguous glens. The tribes have lived apart until they have produced a multitude of different dialects; and difference of language has further accentuated division and enmity, until the Papuan was made the most timid, shy, and suspicious of mankind.

Among the more pronounced of the obstacles in the way of the administration at present is the question of the Tugeri marauders from Dutch New Guinea, a question that requires a speedy solution for the settlement of the west.

Then there are hundreds of inland tribes that here and there come into collision, from behind, with the communities under Government influence. These latter demand protection, and it is no easy matter to give it over so long a line. There are still many places, some even on the coast, at which the natives will wish to try their strength against the Government before they will submit to its orders.

Only slow progress is made in introducing fresh articles for cultivation. What is possible is being done from the different Government centres, but that falls far short of one's wishes. Unfortunately Port Moresby is a waterless, infertile place, unsuitable in every way for the establishment there of an experimental garden.

The absence of men of authority among the tribes is a most serious drawback. To find out the capable man in a tribe, to give him any confidence in himself, and to procure for him any respect or consideration from others, and to teach him that his authority is not to be exerted merely to benefit himself and his immediate relations, are all tasks that require much time and patience. Still that must be done to establish complete authority over the different tribes.

Naturally the Papuan is not quarrelsome; he is very affectionate, he is devoted to his home, and he is an agriculturist; hence they

will take readily to habits of civilisation once they understand it and their confidence is gained. But that requires time and forbearance. The Government is in many districts acquiring their confidence, and is daily obtaining more and more influence. Before the Declaration of Sovereignty the way was more or less prepared for this over some area by the missionaries of the London Missionary Society, principally through Mr. Lawes and Mr. Chalmers. But the authority of the Government has for several reasons to be pushed further and faster than missionary labours.

It is to be ascribed to the zeal of the small handful of officers whose services have been at my disposal that so much has been done as has already been accomplished, under such adverse circumstances, over so great an area, and with such very limited means at disposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. MACGREGOR,
Administrator.

No. 2.

LORD KNUTSFORD to SIR H. W. NORMAN.

SIR, Downing Street, February 13, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 7th of December forwarding printed copies of the Annual Report of the Administrator of British New Guinea for the year ended the 30th of June last.

I have perused this report with much interest, and desire to express my appreciation of the progress which has been made under the direction of Sir Wm. MacGregor in enforcing law and order and introducing the rudiments of civilisation into the Possession.

I desire also that you will convey to Sir S. Griffith an expression of my thanks for the assistance which he has rendered to the Administrator in the matters mentioned in paragraph 57 of the Report.

I have, &c.

KNUTSFORD.

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No. 68.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

[For Report for 1890–91, *see* Colonial Report, [Annual], No. 37.]

No. 1.

Sir H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Brisbane,
December 7, 1892.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information, a printed copy of the Annual Report by the Administrator of British New Guinea for the year which ended on the 30th June 1892. I also enclose the copy of a letter from the Chief Secretary of Queensland, dated the 30th November 1892, in reply to my memorandum of the 25th idem, in which I forwarded this Report to him for information and for any remarks which he might desire to offer.

2. I have pleasure in expressing my cordial concurrence in the opinion of Sir Samuel Griffith, that the work performed by the Administrator during the past year has not only been great in extent but that it will be of permanent value, and I need hardly repeat, what I have so often urged, that the duty of the Administrator could not be efficiently performed if he had not a steam vessel at his disposal.

3. I join with the Chief Secretary in the hope that when Sir William MacGregor vacates his laborious and difficult office, a worthy successor may be appointed, but I trust that circumstances will admit of Sir William MacGregor continuing to administer the Possession for some time to come.

4. Notwithstanding the fact that all the Ordinances passed during the year have already been before your Lordship's department and that all the reports of visits of inspection by the Administrator having been sent separately as soon as they were printed, the Report and its Appendices contain a large amount of most interesting information relating to British New Guinea which I am sure will be highly appreciated by your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

The Most Hon.
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
November 30, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to return herewith Sir William MacGregor's Annual Report for the Year from 1st July 1891, to 30th June 1892, which your Excellency was good enough to send me on the 25th instant for my perusal.

I have read the Report with much interest, and venture to express the opinion that the work done by the Administrator during the twelve months covered by it is not only great in extent but of permanent value.

It is, I think, impossible to read the several Despatches recording His Honour's visits to the different parts of the Possession, without being impressed with the fact that the means of speedy and certain communication afforded by the "Merrie England" are essential to the effectual discharge of the functions of Government in such a territory.

I desire again to repeat the hope expressed in my letter to your Excellency of the 2nd February last, that Her Majesty's Government will see their way to continue to share with the Guaranteeing Colonies the burden of the responsibility of the efficient government of British New Guinea. But whatever determination may be come to, I trust that it will be announced sufficiently long before the 31st March next, when the present provisional arrangement terminates, to enable fresh arrangements to be entered into by the Guaranteeing Colonies for continuing the services of the Government steamer upon a fresh basis, if necessary, without any break.

I hope that when Sir William MacGregor's term of office expires—and he cannot be expected to continue indefinitely the laborious duties which he has now discharged for some four years—his successor will be a man who will carry on the policy most successfully inaugurated by Sir William MacGregor, of governing the country in the interests of the native races, and who will also be fitted by constitutional energy, legislative and administrative ability, and a high sense of duty, for continuing a work which, in my previous letter already referred to, I ventured to describe as honourable alike to the officers more immediately entrusted with the duty of administration, to the Guaranteeing Colonies, and to the Empire.

(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH.

His Excellency
Sir Henry W. Norman, G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.,
Governor.

ANNUAL REPORT 1891–92.

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BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1891-2.

Brisbane, 23rd November, 1892.

Sir,—I have the honour to present the usual Annual Report on British New Guinea, as directed by Section XXXVI. of the Royal Instructions, for the year ending on the 30th June, 1892.

LEGISLATION.

1. Perhaps nothing shows more clearly the progressive development of a young country than a connected account from time to time of the legislation effected, and of the circumstances under which new laws are passed or old ones amended. In this belief it has been deemed expedient to give here not only the general gist of each law passed during the year, but also the chief reasons on which legislation was grounded.

During the year eight Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, and one Native Regulation became law. Two Proclamations and Regulations to carry them into effect, all having the force of law, were also issued.

Ordinances.

2. Ordinance No. IV. of 1891 was framed to meet a want that was already making itself felt among the owners of cattle in the Possession, and also to protect the native or other cultivator. Its object is to deal with trespass by animals, and to provide for the registration of cattle brands and of animals. The question of trespass is a very important one in a country that has a large native population depending on the cultivation of the soil for its sustenance. The natives possess neither the means nor the knowledge that would enable them to fence their gardens against cattle. As it would be manifestly oppressive to put on them this burden of defence, it has to be laid on the owner of the cattle alone. The native, did he possess the requisite knowledge and the necessary means, could not derive any direct profit from fencing, as he has himself no grazing animals. He cannot, therefore, be called upon to contribute any share in fencing the boundary between him and a neighbour. The main provisions of the law are these :—

When an animal trespassess upon any land, the owner or the person in charge of the animal is liable, on the complaint of the owner or occupier of the land, to pay a penal sum of from five shillings to one shilling and sixpence for each animal trespassing, and also to pay as compensation for damages any sum not exceeding twenty pounds.

If the person complained of is in the Possession, the summons is served on him, otherwise on his agent or representative.

The different kinds of fence or construction within which cattle are to be deemed to be duly confined are specified in the Ordinance.

If a person complains that an animal, through not being kept duly confined, is a public nuisance, any magistrate may call upon the owner or person in charge of the animal to show cause why an

order should not be issued directing that the animal be kept duly confined. If no owner or person in charge can be found, the magistrate may still determine the case, and may issue an order requiring the owner or person in charge to confine the animal. If neither the owner nor person in charge can be found, the order is to be published in the *Gazette*. If the order is disobeyed after service, or after publication in the *Gazette*, as the case may be, the animal becomes forfeited to the Crown, and may be disposed of as the Administrator may direct. Similarly any animal found running at large, and for which no owner can be found, may, after notice in the *Gazette*, be forfeited to the Crown.

Cattle over six months old must be either branded or registered. The brand may be registered at the office of the Registrar-General on the payment of a small fee; and an animal may be registered in the same way, and thus be exempted from being branded. All such registrations are published in the *Gazette*.

There are penalties for using animals with the intent to make the owner liable for damages, or for any penalty under the Ordinance; also for dishonest branding, and for tampering with brands. The Administrator in Council can make Regulations with regard to the use of brands under the Ordinance; and can, by Proclamation, extend the meaning of the words "Cattle" or "Animal" so as to include animals not comprised under these terms in the Ordinance.

3. Ordinance No. V. of 1891 was passed to appropriate a sum not exceeding £15,000 for the ordinary services of the Administration for the year ending with the 30th June, 1892.

It also made available within the same period the sum standing to the credit of the Exploration Fund, £717 8*s.* 2*d.*, to be used in carrying out the objects for which that money was originally set apart with the consent of the contributing Colonies.

The same Ordinance further sanctioned the expenditure of a sum not exceeding £7,000 for the maintenance of the s.s. "Merrie England" for the year ending with the 31st March, 1892. Of this sum, £5,000 was provided by the Imperial Government, and £2,000 by the contributing Colonies.

4. Ordinance No. VI. of 1891 was framed to deal with the difficult subject of regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors.

The first Ordinance passed in the Possession after annexation was one which prohibited the supply of intoxicating liquor to natives, under severe penalties. That measure has been very successful, its provisions having been strictly carried out. It can safely be said, as a general statement, that up to the present time natives are unacquainted with intoxicating liquors. Though the supply of intoxicating liquors to natives could be forbidden, it was recognised that its use could be prohibited to Europeans only in certain exceptional cases, and that for the most part all that could be done as regarded the non-aboriginal part of the population was to regulate the sale of such articles. The principal provisions

of the Ordinance, not of the usual technical nature, will be briefly noticed.

Two different kinds of license are issued—a license for premises ashore, and a ship license. A licensee may sell liquor on his licensed premises in any quantity not less than a quart bottle, to be consumed elsewhere than on the licensed premises. Liquor sold to a *bonâ fide* resident, on the premises, may be drunk on the premises.

For the purpose of dealing with applications for licenses, the Colony is divided into Licensing Districts, which are the same as the districts for the Courts of Petty Sessions. Only Resident Magistrates can deal with these applications in Court. An applicant for a license gives notice in writing to a magistrate. The magistrate causes the notice to be posted up in some conspicuous place for not less than fourteen days before the application is heard in Court. Any person objecting to the granting of the license applied for may post below the notice his objections, in writing, not less than forty-eight hours before the hearing; but the Court may entertain objections that have not previously been posted up.

The application must be dealt with in open Court, and any person may give evidence for or against it.

It lies within the absolute discretion of the Court, from which there is no appeal, to give or to refuse the license without stating any reasons. But the magistrate is required to report on every application to the Government Secretary.

The license remains in force for a year, and application for renewal may be made at any time within sixty days of the expiration of an existing license.

The licensee or his agent must reside on the premises. An agent must be appointed by a written document, which has to be delivered to a magistrate, whereupon the agent is for all the purposes of the Ordinance regarded as the licensee.

One of the owners, the agent, or the master of registered British ship may apply for a Ship License, to enable him to sell liquor on the ship within the waters of the Possession; but Customs dues must have been paid on the liquor before it is sold, and it cannot be disposed of in less quantity than two gallons. The licensee or his agent must reside in the ship, failing which the license may be cancelled.

A licensee cannot recover more than £5 for liquor supplied to one person, and cannot sue for liquor supplied to a person in his employ. He is not allowed to receive articles in pledge for liquor. He is also debarred from selling liquor to a person that is insane, intoxicated, or under fourteen years of age.

Severe penalties are provided against a licensee for having on his premises certain specified noxious ingredients, and also for keeping or selling adulterated liquor.

The license of a licensee that supplies liquor to a native may be cancelled, in addition to any other penalty inflicted; but a licensee may intrust liquor to a native to be carried by him to his employer, if resident within five miles of the licensed premises;

but if the distance exceeds five miles the licensee must first receive an order in writing from the person employing the native.

There is a penalty for selling liquor without a license, and also power to seize and forfeit liquor that may be suspected of being unlawfully kept for sale.

Two different kinds of prohibition order may be issued under the Ordinance.

The commander of a ship of war, or of a vessel belonging to one of the Colonial Governments, may apply to a magistrate for an order prohibiting liquor from being supplied by a licensee to any person forming part of the crew or staff of his vessel, except on the written permission of the commander. The order, when issued, will have force over the whole Possession. If any licensee, who has received a copy of the order, disobeys it, he becomes liable to a fine not exceeding 20*l.*

If a complaint is made in writing to any justice that a person, by the use of liquor, is injuring himself, or anyone for whose support he is liable, in mind, body, or estate, the justice must summon the person before a Court to show cause why a prohibition order should not issue. The evidence of any person may be taken for or against the person summoned. The Court may issue a prohibition order, if it finds good reason for doing so; the order cannot remain in force for more than a year, and will, while valid, be in force for the whole Colony. It will require that no liquor be given by any person, under a fine not exceeding 20*l.* or imprisonment not exceeding two months, to the person to whom the order relates. The Ordinance came into force on the 1st of June, 1892.

5. Ordinance No. I. of 1892 was passed to give legal sanction to the expenditure of 721*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* in defraying supplementary charges for the service of the year ending with the 30th June, 1891. The total expenditure was the same as the sum appropriated for the service of the year by Ordinance No. V. of 1891, 15,000*l.*, but there was an excess of expenditure on certain votes, corresponding to the savings on other votes, amounting to a total of 721*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* The votes exceeded were as follows:—

Service.	Vote.	Expenditure.	Excess.
	£	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Schooner "Hygeia" - -	1,500	1,648 16 11	148 16 11
Boat, Eastern Division - -	100	100 3 11	0 3 11
Boat, Samarai - - -	83	84 13 3	1 13 3
Buildings - - -	500	979 0 8	479 0 8
Agricultural - - -	300	355 9 2	55 9 2
Library and Scientific - -	50	86 4 7	36 4 7

6. Ordinance No. II. of 1892, passed to regulate the employment of native labourers, is perhaps the most important legislative measure dealt with during the year.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1891-2.

Section XIII. of the Letters Patent, dated 8th June, 1888, passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom for erecting certain British territory in New Guinea and the adjacent islands into a separate Possession, and providing for the Government thereof, required that the Legislative Council of the Possession should establish a law providing—"That no deportation of natives be allowed, either from one part of the Possession to another or to any place beyond the Possession, except under such conditions as may be established by order of Ourselves in Our Privy Council, or by some law of the Possession which has been reserved for the signification of Our pleasure, and assented to by Ourselves in our Privy Council." Effect was given to this command by Ordinance No. III. of 1888. Under that enactment the Possession was divided into districts, and the natives of each could be engaged to work within their own home district, but not elsewhere. Some exception was permitted in the case of men engaged before a magistrate to work on board boats and vessels on the coast. Under no circumstances did the law allow natives, under engagement or otherwise, to be removed beyond the Possession. If one bears in mind that when that Ordinance was passed the natives were utterly ignorant of such things as Government, law, or order; that, generally speaking, each tribe lived on armed neutrality with its neighbours, if they were not at actual war; that the great majority of them never left their own district or lands; and that each district spoke a dialect of its own, it must be conceded that the restrictions imposed by the Letters Patent and by "*The Natives' Removal Prohibition Ordinance of* 1888" were required by the then circumstances of the country. But when large numbers of the coast and more accessible inland tribes had become acquainted with the Government, and had learned something of its functions; when they began to understand that aggressive tribes would be restrained, and that they could travel with safety, and would be fairly treated by the white man, it came to be felt that the restrictions of Ordinance No. III. of 1888 were not only no longer necessary, but that they were beginning to actually stand in the way of advancement.

To break down the exclusive isolation of the different tribes has been one of the most difficult tasks of the Government. To this isolation are, no doubt, largely owing the shyness, timidity, and suspicion so often encountered among the Papuans. It is very improbable now that any tribe that knows the Government would, under any ordinary circumstances, offer violence to the members of any other tribe in the service of a European. Government influence will, in all probability, keep pace with the employer of labour when it does not advance into new districts before him. There is, therefore, now no risk in permitting labourers to be taken from one district to work in another. That such removals will henceforth be a positive advantage is clear. The more the natives of one district are brought into contact with the natives of other districts the better will they understand the protecting and pacifying power of law and Government; it will make them less shy and less suspicious;

and such removals and contact, when they become common, will aid greatly in breaking down the Babel of tongues which has made neighbouring tribes foreign nations to each other. The new law must, therefore, be of great advantage to the natives. The brief *résumé* of its provisions given below will show that it cannot fail to be much more favourable to the employer of labour than the Ordinance of 1888.

The new law was reserved for the assent of Her Majesty, and that assent was graciously granted on the 25th August, 1892.

Natives cannot be removed beyond the boundaries of the Possession except in the way provided by the Ordinance, nor can they be taken for more than twenty-five miles from their homes, unless they are engaged before, and with the sanction of, a resident magistrate. Within twenty-five miles of their homes, natives can be employed for periods not exceeding one month at a time, without the intervention of the magistrate. This applies to employment ashore or afloat. The employment of women on board vessels is not permitted.

Only persons having *bonâ fide* residences in the country can engage its natives to work afloat. Before a magistrate can sanction an engagement, he must satisfy himself that the native is willing to enter into the contract, and that he will be fairly treated and duly paid and returned to his home on the expiration of the engagement. The period of engagement cannot exceed twelve months. On the complaint of the employer or of the employé a magistrate may, at his discretion, cancel or vary the terms of the contract between them.

Employers who have places of residence in the Possession can receive permits to remove beyond its boundaries any native working for them under an engagement entered into before a magistrate, for fishing in the Gulf of Papua, or in Torres Straits, in boats that are *bonâ fide* stationed in the waters of the Possession.

Residents can also receive permits to let them take natives under engagement to them, entered into before a magistrate, to Cooktown or Thursday Island, on their own vessels, as boatmen, seamen, or as personal attendants.

An employer removing a native beyond the Possession is required to give security that the services of the native will not be transferred, and that the native will be duly returned to his own country. When any person removes a native from his home, he incurs the obligation of supplying the native, until he returns him to his usual place of residence, with food, water, medicine, and shelter.

Payment of natives engaged before a magistrate must be made in the presence of the latter.

Provision is made for inspecting premises or vessels on which native labourers are employed.

There is no legal barrier to engaging native labourers in any district of the Possession to work anywhere in the Colony,

provided that the natives are engaged before the magistrate. There is no reason why boats located in the Possession should not be manned in whole or in part by the natives of the country in fishing for bêche-de-mer and pearl-shell, either in Torres Straits or in the waters of the Possession. The natives engaged on such vessels can be permitted to proceed with them to the nearest Australian ports to procure supplies, take over cargo, &c. The Ordinance has been framed to permit the greatest freedom of contract between the employer and the native that is compatible with reasonable protection to the latter in his present condition.

7. Ordinance No. III. of 1892 was passed to adopt as the law of the Possession the Queensland "*Act to Consolidate and Amend the Law relating to Posts and Telegraphs*" (55 Vict. No. 15).

Postal matters in the Possession are in practice administered as if it were a postal district of Queensland; the same stamps, the same rates, and the same regulations are in use in both Colonies. Such changes as became necessary in Queensland on account of that Colony joining the Universal Postal Union also became necessary in the Possession, which joined the Union at the same time, and the Ordinance No. III. of 1892 was passed to enable postal affairs in the Possession to be still kept on the same footing as those of Queensland under the new conditions.

8. Ordinance No. IV. of 1892 was framed primarily to enable the Government to legally set apart a small block of land at Samarai as a reserve for the use of Her Majesty's ships of war on the station. It was, however, seen that, instead of passing a special enactment for that particular purpose, it would be better to have a law of more general application, which would enable reserves to be made for any useful public purpose.

The Ordinance empowers the Administrator in Council to reserve any Crown land either permanently or temporarily, for such things as public defence, schools, wharves, public gardens, cemeteries, or for any special purpose approved by the Legislative Council by resolution.

The reserve may be made by the issue of a Crown Grant in trust; or the Administrator in Council may, by Proclamation, place any reserved land under the control of trustees. Trustees may be enabled to make byelaws for carrying out the object of the trust.

9. Ordinance No. V. of 1892 was passed to amend "The Native Children Custody and Reformation Ordinance of 1891." The last-mentioned law makes provision for entrusting to certain persons the care and custody of any native child who is an orphan, or is deserted by its relatives, or of any native child that has committed an offence against a law of the Possession. Provision was made to safeguard the child, and to give the person having custody over it the power and authority of a parent. It appeared, however, to be necessary to give the Resident Magistrate of the district power to compel the custodian to produce the

child when required by him to do so; and to prevent the child from being removed from the place specified in the mandate confiding the child to the custodian. This has accordingly been provided for in Ordinance No. V. of 1892.

Native Regulations.

10. Only one Native Regulation was passed within the period covered by this Report—Regulation No. IV. of 1891, concerning adultery.

There can be but little doubt that in recent times and among the more settled tribes the most frequent cause of quarrel between communities and individuals is woman. Custom differs much in different districts as to the manner of obtaining a wife. Some tribes always marry their own women; others never do so, but obtain wives from certain tribes between whom and themselves there exists reciprocity in this matter; others, again, obtain wives wherever they can get them. In some cases the pair are betrothed at birth, or by custom, perhaps, before birth. Widows belong to the brother of the deceased husband, as a rule, and can be disposed of by him at his pleasure. One point appears to be common to all the tribes: The suitor must pay, or give, certain property to the girl's father. There is thus in most cases somewhat narrow limits to the circle within which a Papuan may select a spouse. The unions of early life are apparently, however, in the majority of cases love matches, although it is considered to be the right thing in many places for a girl that is being married to pretend coyness, compulsion, and capture. The youth of both sexes (especially girls) are now beginning to find out that the maintenance of peace by the Government enables them to follow their natural inclinations in a way they could not do before in selecting a partner. But this adds to police cases at first, and will do so for some time to come. Owing to the circumscribed choice, to the extreme fickleness of the Papuan heart, and to the little exalted state of morality generally, adultery is far from uncommon. The injured wife seldom proceeds to acts of violence. The husband sharply resents such an injury, and this is a fruitful source of assault and murder. The husband might be pacified by a large payment, if not deeply attached to his wife; but if his affection is strongly engaged he very frequently uses his spear or bow and arrow on the woman, or on her paramour, or on both. The Regulation is an attempt to substitute a legal remedy for the natural and more ready method of redress. The difficulty will be to once get this judicial remedy started in the several districts. Once begun it will soon become established.

The Regulation, though unpretentious in appearance, is in reality a very important measure. It can be administered only by a European magistrate for native matters, and he cannot move in the case unless a complaint is lodged by the injured husband. The guilty man or woman may be imprisoned. The

"co-respondent" may be made to give payment to the wife's husband. What under native customs is recognised to be a marriage is held to be so under the Regulation. The evidence tendered in each case must be committed to writing, and a report has to be forwarded to the Government Secretary. There is some reason to believe that the Regulation will soon begin to be operative.

Proclamations having the force of law.

11. An experience of some three years has shown the Government of the Possession that the dire disease of rabies and hydrophobia does not exist in the country. As is well known, the Colonies of Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania have established measures to protect themselves against this terrible malady. The necessity for such protection in British New Guinea was very apparent. It was plain that were rabies introduced into the Possession there would be a strong probability that it would soon cross the Strait and become disseminated in Australia. The domestic grounds for protection were very strong. In the first place, the Possession has a large barefooted, barelegged population; in the second place, the native dog is everywhere kept as a pet, as an article of diet, or for hunting. The native dog, closely resembling the Australian dingo in appearance, has a strong gregarious tendency. The dogs of a village meet, as a rule, several times a day to howl in chorus—they have not learned to bark—and they hardly ever separate without fighting. They possess remarkably sharp, slender, canine teeth, with which they inflict a deep "snappy" bite. Rabies once introduced among such animals would spread like wildfire, and would speedily be communicated to man and to the village pig, which is also when young almost invariably a pet, often nursed at the breast of a woman, like, or in lieu of, a child if the latter has died.

When the question was under consideration it was pointed out that it would be extremely desirous that similar preventive measures should be adopted in Dutch New Guinea and in Kaiser Wilhelms-land, and that further additional protection would be ecured to all our Colonies in Australasia if legislation on the same lines were adopted in the French Possessions of Oceania. This matter received the earnest support of Sir Samuel Griffith, and, largely owing to that fact, there is good reason to believe that the neighbouring settlements of France, Germany, and the Netherlands will follow us in endeavouring to keep out rabies from this part of the world.

When dealing with the one matter of rabies, it was deemed expedient to impose the same restrictions on the importation of other animals as exist in Queensland. Accordingly, by one Proclamation the importation of pigs into the Possession is absolutely prohibited from all places except the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, and Tasmania. This was considered advisable,

because a like restriction is in force in Queensland, and because, on the one hand, the best breeds of swine are already fully established in Australia, and, on the other, such diseases as trichinosis, bladderworms, &c., are unknown in British New Guinea at present.

By another Proclamation the importation of cattle, horses, sheep, goats, dogs, deer, and camels is permitted from the Australian Colonies, Tasmania, and New Zealand. From other places they must be accompanied by certificates of health, be examined on arrival, and be detained for specified periods in quarantine. Dogs are detained in quarantine for a period of six months at the port of arrival. This detention, it is recognised, gives a reasonable measure of protection, while it is too short to confer absolute immunity. Cattle are detained 120 days, sheep 90 days, in quarantine. No diseased animal from any place can be landed in the Possession.

Regulations were passed on the 3rd June, 1892, for carrying into effect the provisions of the "*Diseased Animals Act.*" Under these, stock imported from the Australian Colonies, Tasmania, or New Zealand must be proved to be the produce of those Colonies, or to have been subjected to the rules as to quarantine and disinfection in force in those Colonies.

Commissioners and inspectors have been duly appointed for carrying out the provisions of these Proclamations and Regulations.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

12. By an Order of the Queen in Council, dated 24th November, 1891, an appeal is provided, in Admiralty cases, from the Colonial Court of Admiralty of the possession to the Supreme Court of Queensland at Brisbane.

In civil matters, when the amount or value in dispute exceeds £100, an appeal lies from any court of the possession to the Supreme Court of Queensland. There is a Colonial Court of Admiralty in the Possession, by virtue of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890. The Order mentioned above provides that in all Admiralty matters, whatever the amount or value in dispute, an appeal shall lie from the Colonial Court of Admiralty of the Possession to the Supreme Court of Queensland. The decision of the Supreme Court of Queensland on an appeal made to it under the Order is further subject to appeal to Her Majesty in Council, in the same manner as any other decision of that Court.

13. As the seats of the Courts competent to deal with cases other than those that affect natives only are likely to remain for some time without any change, they may be mentioned here:—The Central Court, presided over by the Chief Magistrate, at Port Moresby; Courts of Petty Sessions, each presided over by a Resident Magistrate, at Mabudauan, Port Moresby, Samarai, and at Nivani in the Louisiade Archipelago. The Chief Magistrate holds a Court at any place in the Possession as may be requisite

and the Resident Magistrates hold sittings of their Courts in their respective districts wherever necessary.

The Government Agents of the Rigo and Mekeo districts hold Courts as magistrates for Native matters, but they have no jurisdiction in cases affecting others than natives. All the Resident Magistrates are magistrates for native matters, as also Mr. Musgrave, Mr. Ballantine, Mr. Butterworth, and two natives. It is probable that some other natives may soon be appointed to that position; but this, to prevent oppression, requires care and caution.

The appointment of some four or five more Government Agents, who would also be magistrates for native matters, is much needed, but it is not safe to try to extend the service further unless additional funds were assured for expenditure.

The Resident Magistrate at Mabudauan, the Government Agents for the Mekeo and Rigo districts, and the Resident Magistrate for the Louisiades have each a force of eight members of the armed constabulary. The magistrate at Samarai has a separate police force, recruited in his own district. The Port Moresby magistrate can procure the services of constabulary from the headquarters of the force when he requires them.

The subjoined tabulated list of cases dealt with by the Courts has kindly been prepared by Mr. Winter. It may be mentioned that many cases, not entered below, are dealt with out of Court by magistrates for Native matters:—

MATTERS DEALT WITH JUDICIALLY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1892.

CENTRAL COURT.

Criminal Business.

Number of Persons committed for Trial.	District from which committed.	Persons committed—how disposed of.
24	Central District - -	24 tried.
18	Eastern District - -	2 tried.
		16 awaiting trial.
3	Western District -	2 tried.
		1 awaiting trial.
Total - - 45		

The Court held Seven Criminal Sessions at the Places and Times, and with the Results, under-mentioned:—

No. of Persons tried.	Offence charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	PORT MORESBY—26th September 1891.		
7	1 murder, 6 sedition -	1 guilty of murder, 3 guilty of sedition, 3 acquitted	1 death, 1 four months' imprisonment with hard labour, 2 one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

No. of Persons tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	PORT MORESBY—4th November 1891.		
3	Murder	3 guilty	3 death.
	PORT MORESBY—19th November, 1891.		
6	Rape	6 guilty	6 death.
	DOBU—23rd December, 1891.		
1	Murder	1 guilty	1 death.
	SAMARAI—25th December 1891.		
1	Manslaughter	1 guilty	1 imprisonment till rising of Court.
	SUMAI, FLY RIVER—25th April, 1892.		
2	Murder	2 guilty	2 death.
	MEKEO—16th May, 1892.		
8	Murder	8 guilty	8 death.
Total - 28			

Civil Business.

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings.	Amount involved.	Result.
		£ s. d.	
1	Application for administration under Intestacy Act.	—	Granted.

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Indictable Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Inquiry.
Central	26	14 murder	12 committed, 2 discharged.
		6 rape	6 committed.
		6 sedition	6 committed.
Eastern	19	16 murder	16 committed.
		1 rape	1 committed.
		1 assault	1 committed.
		1 receiving stolen goods.	1 discharged.
Western	3	3 murder	3 committed.
	Total 48		

Summary Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central - - -	10	1 Desertion from ship - -	1 convicted.
		1 Supplying liquor to native -	1 dismissed.
		2 Assault- - - -	2 convicted.
		2 Larceny - - -	1 convicted, 1 dismissed.
		3 Injuries to property. - -	1 convicted, 2 dismissed.
		1 breach Constabulary Ordinance . - - -	1 convicted.
Eastern - - -	3	1 illegally removing native -	1 convicted.
Western- - -	None.	2 supplying liquor to native -	1 convicted, 1 dismissed.
	—		
	Total 13		

Civil Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Actions tried.	Amount involved.	Result of Action.
		£ s. d.	
Central - - -	1 - - -	7 0 0	Verdict for defendant.
Eastern - - -	None.	—	—
Western- - -	None.	—	—

Native Magistrates' Courts.—"Forbidden Acts."

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
No. 1 (Eastern) -	9	6 theft - - - -	5 convicted, 1 dismissed.
		1 destroying cocoanut trees -	1 convicted.
		2 adultery - - -	2 acquitted.
No. 2 (Central)	34	3 spreading lying reports -	3 convicted.
		4 adultery - - -	2 convicted, 2 dismissed.
		14 assault - - -	9 convicted, 5 dismissed.
		7 theft - - - -	6 convicted, 1 dismissed.
		2 using threatening language	2 convicted.
		4 burying corpse in village -	4 convicted.
No. 3 (Western) -	36	20 assault - - -	20 convicted.
		7 adultery - - -	7 convicted.
		6 theft - - - -	6 convicted.
		1 using threatening language	1 convicted.
		2 disturbing proceedings of Court - - -	2 convicted.
	—		
	Total 79		

Summary

TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court	45
In Courts of Petty Sessions (exclusive of the 45 that went up to Central Court)	16
In Native Magistrates' Courts	79
In all Courts	140

TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court	1
In Courts of Small Debts	1
In Native Magistrates' Courts	0
In all Courts	2

From these figures it will be seen that no fewer than twenty-one persons were sentenced to undergo capital punishment. All were natives of the Possession, and all were males. Fifteen of these were convicted of murder, and six of rape. All these crimes were committed on natives, except in one case, where the victim was a Chinese trader.

The first case on the list arose out of the religious obligation on a son to "take payment" in blood from a neighbouring tribe for the murder of his father many years ago.

The three next—tried at Port Moresby, 4th November—killed a member of their own tribe because they believed that by witchcraft he had brought about the death of one of their relatives.

The six people sentenced at Port Moresby, 19th November, for rape, were five men and a boy, who was apparently under fourteen, although he was already a husband. This crime is not frequent, this being the first case of the kind brought before the Central Court. They met two women of a neighbouring tribe returning home from fishing, and violated them in requital for some old intertribal injury. The boy was, by a mandate under the Native Children's Reformation Ordinance, confided to the custody of a guardian.

The two men tried at Sumai, on the Fly River, 25th April, led their tribe to attack the islanders on Domori, when several people were killed, because they thought the Domori people had caused the death of a Sumai man by witchcraft.

The eight men tried at Mekeo, 16th May, formed part of those that attacked Inawabui a neighbouring tribe, when some eight of the latter were killed. This was done in keeping up old intertribal quarrels. It did not appear that the convicts had been other than mere participants in the general attack.

In each of these cases the accused admitted guilt.

Such circumstances of mitigation were found in all these twenty cases as were thought to justify the exercise of the prerogative of mercy, and the sentences were commuted to terms of imprisonment.

The sentence imposed on the convict at Dobu, 23rd December, was for the murder, by a native, of an honest, industrious, inoffensive Chinese settler, who had been resident in the country for many years. He lived like a European, and was regarded by the natives as being a white man. The reason why he was murdered is not perfectly clear, but one thing was quite manifest —that he had himself given no grounds whatever to justify in any way an attack on him. Two reasons were at different times alleged — one, that the wife of the murderer had, without the knowledge of, or any encouragement from, the victim, conceived a liking for him, which she disclosed to her husband; the other, that the convict killed the Chinese to take payment for a relation of last generation that was killed by a white man. As nothing could be found to mitigate the gravity of the offence, the sentence was carried into effect in the district of the prisoner, where the murder was committed. This was the only sentence of capital punishment imposed during the year which was not commuted.

14. Three cases came before the Courts for supplying liquor to natives, in one of which there was a conviction, while the other two were dismissed. The rarity of this offence must be considered very satisfactory.

That no cases came before the Courts for supplying arms or ammunition to natives is a matter for congratulation. It seems to show that the white part of the population understand and support the reasons for these restrictive laws.

There was only one case for illegally removing a native. As already explained under "Legislation," so many restrictions have now been removed in the matter of employing natives that there will be but little excuse for this kind of contravention of the law in future.

Thirteen cases of adultery came before the magistrates for Native affairs. From what has been stated under paragraph 10, it may be considered that this is an encouraging commencement in administering the Native Regulation dealing with adultery as a penal offence. It is perfectly certain that as the cases of adultery brought before the Courts increase in number the cases of murder and assault will be lessened.

Offences for using threatening language, three of which were dealt with by the Courts for native matters, will, in all probability, not be rare. They arise from tribes in the more settled districts exacting contributions from more ignorant tribes in the name and under the pretended authority of the Government. Contraventions of the Burial Regulation, which requires interment to be carried out in a cemetery, are not likely to cease for years yet. It is a long-established custom to bury under, near, or in the dwelling-house of the deceased—a custom based on strong domestic affection, on religion, and on the use of ages. Much patience, firmness, and perseverance will be required to combat this unsanitary habit, especially in the district of one of the

missions, some at least of the members of which defend the native custom.

15. In the administration of justice the Government has, so far, met with two facts of a very satisfactory nature. One is that the non-native part of the population are remarkably law-abiding for people under such circumstances. Speaking in general terms, it can be said of the Europeans that they have not only shown much respect for the ordinary laws affecting themselves equally there or in any other part of the British Empire, but they also—what is much more remarkable—pay due regard to the exceptional, restrictive, and disabling laws which the peculiar conditions of the country render, at least for the present, necessary. It may, for example, be doubt that there is in any country a more honest, law-obeying class of men, as a class, than the diggers that have been on Misima and Tagula for four years. They complain and think they do not receive sufficient attention from the Government, but they foster the establishment of law and order. It is a very remarkable fact in the history of a new Colony of this kind that during the first four years of its existence only one case has come before the Courts of a European charged with the murder of a native. In that instance the person so charged was self-accused, and the finding of the Court was that the charge was destitute of good foundation. Only one other case of the kind, committed, or alleged to have been committed, by a foreigner, has been reported to the Government. In that case the accused evaded arrest, and was finally killed by natives whom he had injured, beyond the border, in German territory.

The other circumstance is that the Papuan soon shows a surprisingly good comprehension of the judicial process and a keen sense of justice. The defence has often been raised by the natives that they did not, when a crime was committed, understand the law; or that they were not aware the Government really would insist on the law being obeyed. Several times, when a person has been sentenced to undergo capital punishment, messages have been sent to the head of the Government to the effect that they hoped he would remember that the convict was the first from the district. Accused persons have often in court called the attention of the judge to the fact that the evidence being given was hearsay only, and that the witness was not giving the testimony of an eye-witness. A number of the people of a large village met to consider the conduct of their Chief, who had asked exactions from them, failing which he had threatened them with the lock-up. They came to the conclusion that "there is only one road to the lock-up, and that lies through the Court," and that, therefore, the Chief was merely trying to impose on them. A chief sent his wife and daughter a day's journey to complain to the "Kovana" that the constabulary had broken a spear and killed a pig belonging to his tribe. Without the compensation that was paid, they seemed to understand that an injustice committed even by the constabulary would be rectified by the Government.

ADMINISTRATIVE VISITS OF INSPECTION.

The several despatches reporting in detail the results of the principal visits of inspection made during the year will be found in the Appendices marked A to L.* Here they are briefly summarised.

16. The time from the 13th July to the end of that month was devoted to a visit to the D'Entrecasteaux and Kiriwina Groups. It was found that the Wesleyan Mission were making great progress in erecting the dwelling-house for their headquarters at Dobu Island. The natives, though entertaining many strange suspicions with regard to the ultimate objects of their settlement there, were friendly and rendering good help to the missionaries in the work of building. The vessel that had brought the pioneer party of the Mission, with the Rev. G. Brown on board, was towed to an offing by the "Merrie England."

While the steamer was despatched to take Mr. Maitland, of the Queensland Geological Survey, and the Hon. M. H. Moreton, to examine Mount Suckling, the examination of the coast of Fergusson Island was made from Nadi to Bagiagia Island. It was observed that the large island is schistose where the high mountains exist, and elsewhere of volcanic origin. The population is extremely numerous, and were found to be friendly, but extremely timid where, in former days, some of them had been murdered and others kidnapped. In some districts all villages are inland, in others they are all on the coast. The reason for this distribution is not very apparent. There is no protecting reef, and anchorage for large vessels is not frequent on this coast. The country is very rough, densely wooded, and well watered. The tribes were not always friendly to one another.

On the 21st the Kiriwina (Trobriand) Group was reached. These are low coral islands with a population of probably 15,000 or 20,000. This appears to be the meeting place of the Polynesian and Papuan races. The people did not seem to be warlike. The tribes met with were friendly, without any exception. Here, it was noticed, the Chief occupies much the same position as he has in the Pacific Islands, being treated with respect, sometimes reverence. They are skilful workers of ebony, which grows on some of the islands, and their light soil produces great quantities of very fine yams. Mentally and physically, they are much superior to the natives of the mainland nearest to them. Three canoes of the natives of Sim Sim Island were met with at Kaduwaga, having come there to fish for the Kaduwaga people.

Whilst Kiriwina was being examined, the Resident Magistrate was sent on to visit Murua, Nada, and Egum, under instructions to deal with certain matters requiring attention. The state of the natives was reported as satisfactory at each place, but, owing to bad weather and other circumstances, the programme of work was only partially carried out in those islands.

* Not printed.

17. On the 7th August a start was made from Samarai with the intention of walking across from Tauwara (Milne Bay) to Pouro (Mullens' Harbour). It had been alleged at Sila-Sila and its neighbourhood that it was at the instigation of some of the tribes in that part of the country that Sila-Sila had murdered a native of Laimotu Village, in Orangerie Bay. The Maiwara district, the first traversed, was found to be orderly, many of the people being engaged in making copra. The two bays, Tauwara and Pouro, are separated by a ridge of lava and limestone about 800 feet high. The Pile-Pile tribe, on the west side of the range, was visited by the commandant, and found to be quiet and friendly. Making Sagara headquarters, the Commandant and a small detachment of constabulary visited many of the surrounding villages and were everywhere well received. Some dozen villages were visited in crossing the isthmus, the occupants of which, without exception, were found to be quiet and industrious. It was quite plain that they had nothing to do with the evil deeds of the Sila-Sila tribe. The latter had blamed them because they were at a distance, and, as they thought, out of my reach. The Tàmoro, Were-Were, and Dahune tribes received the party in a very friendly manner, without reserve or suspicion, all clearly recognising the supremacy of the Government. The same visit was extended to all the coast tribes of Orangerie Bay, as far east as Baibara Island. This country is flat near the sea. There is no shore reef in the bay except near its middle, at Gadaisu Village. All the tribes were friendly, and had already learned something of the Government. Two or three tribes in the east end of the bay, which had been formerly implicated in the murder of a European, were at first afraid, and kept aloof; but many of them visited the party, and brought it food before it left them.

The party taken by Messrs. Moreton and Maitland to Mount Suckling reached an altitude of about 7,000 feet. They found varying soil, but no mountain villages.

18. On the 1st September a visit to the Mekeo district was undertaken. At Ravao (Yule Island) news was received that the Inawaia tribe had attacked Inawabui, and killed several people, and had threatened to kill Bishop Verjus, and to put the Government at defiance. The Inawa tribe had also discharged arrows at the Government Agent. It had been foreseen that the powerful tribes of that district would not submit to Government authority without a preliminary struggle. On the 7th an advance party entered the village of Inawa. Some of the men "showed fight," but all fled when the leader and one or two others were wounded by rifle bullets. On the following day communication was opened with some of the same tribe at their own village.

19. Two days after, a visit was paid to the hostile tribe of Eboa, which had with Inawaia attacked Inawabui. They were in the act of holding a great feast to celebrate their recent victory, and were prepared to resist the Government. They were taken by

surprise and fled, but six prisoners were secured and safely removed to the Government Station. On the 12th a visit in force was made to the tribe of Inawaia. They had prepared for us by removing their property, women, and children. Hearing of the collapse of Inawa and Eboa, they were afraid to fight, and were distributed in small parties. No arrests were made. All the arms found in Inawa, Eboa, and Inawaia were burned.

On the 14th a party was sent to procure the arrest of a native of Maiva for the murder of a man of the neighbouring tribe of Kivori. These are powerful communities, whose hereditary inter-tribal hostilities had been stopped by the Government. The murder was a personal one; but the friends of the murderer concealed him, and all attempts to capture him failed. With great reluctance the Government saw itself forced to the expedient of arresting a number of men, and keeping them as hostages for the surrender of the murderer. He was delivered up next day. The village of Bereina was visited at the same time by the Government Agent. A defiant band of young men, who were armed and ready to fight, laid down their arms when summoned to do so. Their weapons were collected and burned, which sufficiently humiliated the tribe, greatly to the satisfaction of the resident teacher, who could previously do nothing with them. Several of the more powerful neighbouring chiefs came to the Government Station to cement friendly relations. A second visit was paid to Eboa on the 19th by the magistrate, and a man was arrested there for alleged murder at Inawabui. Bishop Verjus arrived at the station on the 19th, and said that his work would be greatly facilitated by the subjugation of the troublesome tribes.

On the 23rd a party, accompanied by several native chiefs, who expressed a desire to be there to help the Government, surprised Inawaia from the east side at daybreak. Six men were arrested, one of them the son of the Chief. The other men fled, leaving their arms in the village, which were collected and burned. A squad of a dozen prisoners, who had accompanied the party as carriers for an inland expedition, expressed a desire to assist the police as volunteers, and some of them rendered excellent service in that very unusual capacity.

20. Another visit was made to the Mekeo district on the 9th December. The villages of Akabara and Meauri were first visited, and found to be quiet and peaceful. A part of the Inawaia tribe were building a new village near the river, having separated themselves from the rest of the tribe, which was not of so peaceful a disposition. Two lay brothers of the Sacred Heart Mission were stationed with them. The rest of the tribe did not seem disposed to build there. The mission had done very good service in settling some of the tribes, especially Bishop Verjus, who ably used the circumstances to strengthen the influence of the mission, where formerly it was but of small account, at the same time that he was loyally helping in the establishment of peace and order. When Mr. Winter was acting as Deputy-Administrator

he had visited the district, and his party, when returning from a reconnaissance, came into contact with an encampment of the Inawaia tribe, who promptly attacked the constabulary, with a loss to themselves of on e man killed and two wounded. This encounter had also aided to establish a more peaceful disposition in this and the neighbouring tribes. The natives were now, on this visit, found somewhat uneasy, not knowing whether further punishment would be inflicted, or if the building of a new village would be approved. This and other tribes near them were re-assured by this visit, and the principal Chief of Inawaia came to the Government Station to present offerings of peace. All the leading men of the district soon came to the station to report themselves, and it was seen that the whole district was gradually subsiding into peaceful habits. The good work of Père Vitali at Inawi was seen, and much appreciated. A large and well-built church was fast approaching completion there. Visits were paid to the people remaining at the old village of Inawaia, and most of the people of Eboa came there to meet the party; but the chiefs of Inawaia and Eboa could not muster up courage to go to Inawabui to make peace, a task which was left to the War Chief of Inawaia alone. A beginning was, however, thus effected of establishing peaceful relations between these tribes. It was found that good work was being done by the Lay Brothers of the Sacred Heart Mission at Bioto and Pinapaka.

21. On the 17th December a visit of inspection of the coast east of Port Moresby was begun. The people of Kappa Kappa and Kaile were shifting their pile houses ashore. The former of these and the Hula tribe had planted many cocoanuts, others were beginning to prepare copra for the trader. There had been some difficulty in enforcing the Native regulation forbidding burial in the inhabited villages. The old enmity of Kalo and Kwaipo was completely at an end, and the former had also received visits from the nearest tribes of the interior. The Galoma (Aroma) district was found to be quiet, and it was clear that they were extending the area of their trading operations. The tribes about Mairu were found to be peaceful, but much inter-tribal disturbance was said to exist inland, in districts not visited by the Government. A new station of the London Missionary Society, which was being established at Kurere, on the mainland near Laraoro, was visited, and the work encouraged.

At Suau only a Samoan teacher was resident, the headquarters of this division of the London Missionary Society Mission having been transferred to Kwato, an excellent site for it, near Samarai.

On the 21st a call was made at East Cape. A Fijian teacher, of the Wesleyan Mission, was making a good commencement there, and all the villages seemed to be quiet and peaceful.

At Dobu the Wesleyan Mission had made much progress, but they could not build schools and churches until the planting season was over. Mr. Bromilow could already speak the Dobu language with considerable readiness, and he had gained an important influence.

Mrs. Bromilow had a very successful sewing class of young girls. There was noticed much improvement in the demeanour of the natives, who had given up the practice of carrying arms. The Rev. A. Maclaren, of the Anglican Mission Station, had been left ill of fever at Samarai. A visit was paid to the station of that mission at Wedau; all was quiet in that neighbourhood. It was clear that Mr. Maclaren had been able to make a decided impression on the natives during the few months he had been among them.

On the 24th December the constabulary were landed at Bakera, on the coast of Duau, to try to secure the murderer of a European trader that had, for the sake of plunder, been killed there a few months previously. Friendly relations were speedily opened with neighbouring tribes, and the principal in the crime was arrested next day. A visit of inspection was extended, in a whaleboat with a native crew, right round the island, to establish relations with all the coast tribes, and to find out where there were anchorages, watering places, &c. The sketch chart of this journey is not yet quite completed. Many good anchorages were found, the most striking one being the inland harbour of Sewa, about half-way between Uruma (Duchess Island) and Dimadimwara (Cape Prevost). This haven has an entrance about a hundred yards wide, and then opens out in a sheet of water some three miles by four. The visit was well received by all the tribes seen on the coast, and parties of men came from the inland tribes to visit the Government boat. The south end of Duau is inhabited by a great many very industrious tribes, who, being more addicted to agriculture than to fighting, are very glad to be now freed from the hostile and oppressive raids of the Dubu tribes. They sell a great many yams to canoes trading from other islands. They were anxious to have teachers among them. Manifestly they were beginning to settle down in many districts, but there are still some fierce and barbarous tribes on this island which do not trade with natives from any other place.

22. On the 4th January the island of Sanaroa (Welle Island) was inspected. It had been reported by Dobu natives that Sanaroa was hostile to the Government and to the Mission. This was found to be a malicious invention to throw discredit on the Sanaroa people. The tribes there were seen to be very friendly towards Europeans of all kinds. The communities on and near Ketaupai Bay, on the neighbouring coast of Moratua, were visited and were found to be all living in harmony together, and to be on terms of friendship with Dobu and Baio, a state of matters widely different from that existing there three years ago. The Rev. W. Bromilow and the principal chiefs of Dobu and Baio joined the inspecting party on the 8th January. The first district visited was Basima, on the north-east coast of Moratau. The different tribes presented themselves without arms, and seemed to be settling down into quieter habits. They had manifestly heard about the new order of things. Next day the steamer passed between Wamea and Urasi, two islands of the Amphlett Group,

and reached Kaduwaga, in the Kiriwina Group, by a route which presented clear and open water until the last-named islands were reached. The first service ever held in that group was performed by Mr. Bromilow, in Kaduwaga, on Sunday, the 9th. The audience was attentive, and must have considered the whole thing as very "uncanny." They, however, treated the missionary well, whether from goodwill or through awe of the unknown, it would be difficulty to say. Both there and at Kaibola the people were very quiet and friendly. No anchorage for the steamer could be found near Kaibola, but bottom was met with at Kaura Kuba, on the east side of the island, in five or six fathoms, and the steamer was anchored there while a visit was paid to Emaràkana, the seat of the great Chief of this group. He and his people treated the party with much kindness, and they produced the impression that they could be made useful and powerful agents in the work of civilisation. It was shown that there is only one village, Wamela, on the east coast of Kiriwina. There is a shore reef there, with a passage through it for boats and small craft. Large vessels can, in fine southern weather or in northern weather, anchor outside in six or eight fathoms. The natives there are friendly, as they are everywhere in that group. No anchorage could be discovered at Giriba, but the steamer anchored for the night in a bight on the south end of Vakuta Island, the natives of which were also friendly, some of them visiting the steamer. The 12th January was spent at Kitava island. It seems to be an elevated atoll, from 300 to 400 feet high, with an area of five or six square miles. There were thirteen villages in the depressed central plateau of the island, which is surrounded by a wooded, coral wall rim 50 to 100 feet high. They form a peaceful and industrious community, fond of trading and of carving in wood. From Kitava the steamer proceeded to Wamana, on the north of Murua (Woodlark Island). This influential tribe was somewhat agitated by party politics, some of them wishing to proceed in the path of progress and civilisation much faster than the more conservative elements were prepared to follow. Endeavours were made to reconcile their views and to establish harmonious working. Half-a-dozen of the Guasopu tribe, which were living as refugees at Wamana, were taken to Guasopu, with the object of establishing peace between them and the Wakoia tribe. When the villages of these latter were visited all fled, but after some trouble they were all induced to return to the principal village. The leading men expressed themselves as glad to have peace with the Guasopu tribe, and said the Government might be certain that they would live as friends in future. On the 18th and 19th the islands of Kwaiawata and Gawa were inspected. They seem to be raised atolls like Kitava; the tribes on them also live in the central plateau. There were some thirteen villages on Kwaiawata, and about a score of them on Gawa. The natives closely resemble those of Kitava. At Iwa Island no anchorage could be obtained. It seems to be of the same formation as the neighbouring islands mentioned above. Dugumenu Island was not then inhabited.

23. On the 26th January an inspection of part of the Louisiades was commenced. The Wesleyan Mission at Pannaetti, conducted by the Revs. Messrs. Fellowes and Watson, was making an excellent beginning. The Sabbath was already observed. The natives were spontaneously planting cocoanuts, and helping to build a church and establish the station on a very suitable site. They were timid and distrustful of the Government, because a murderer was at large among them. The Magistrate's quarters at Bogoya on Misima were visited, and it was decided to remove them to an island near Pannaetti. The Rev. Mr. Fellowes accompanied the party to Misima. Most of the villages of the south coast were visited, but the inhabitants often wished to avoid intercourse. This was mainly, if not entirely, owing to the fact that for petty acts of theft they had frequently been threatened with punishment from the Government. They were not unfriendly, and were, after some trouble, brought in. It was reported that the tribe of Gulewa, on the north coast of the island, had lately been extremely lawless. They had attacked and killed some people belonging to Hariba and Sagara, two neighbouring tribes. These had been restrained from retaliation chiefly by diggers Sanderson and Simpson, on the assurance that the Government would punish Gulewa.

A party was conducted across the island to come on Gulewa from behind, but the paths were watched by sentinels. The fighting men of the tribe fled when the critical moment came, and the village was occupied by the police; but, though they remained there for nearly two weeks, they were unable to secure any of the ringleaders in the disturbances, the failure being no doubt chiefly owing to the bad weather. Only some unimportant arrests were made, but it was felt that these would influence the conduct of the tribe, and that their prestige was destroyed. About the same time, on the main land, the Modewa tribe, which is under the influence of the London Missionary Society, surrendered to the constabulary three men charged with murder. In the absence of the Chief Magistrate on leave—the first granted to him since he entered the service—twelve men, committed for trial, were removed from Samarai to Port Moresby.

24. On the last day of February a visit to the western district of the Possession was begun. Mr. Cameron had effected, at very little public expense, great improvements at the station at Mabudauan. Substantial houses had been built, and land cleared and planted. Shortly before, the Sumai tribe had attacked the Domori islanders and killed a number of them. Mr. Cameron had very ably procured from the Sumai tribe the surrender of the two chiefs that conducted the expedition, but the tribe still remained unsettled and were not friendly to the Government. Mr. Cameron had wisely secured the co-operation of all the neighbouring tribes against Sumai. The natives of Mawatta and Turituri were clearly making steady progress, the native magistrates and police having turned out better than could have been expected. The settlers

on Yaru Island were hardly making a living, they not possessing the capital required to start them properly in fishing. At the village of Sui it was reported that Sumai had threatened them because they had sided with the Government when Sumai was contumacious. At Iăsa Village policemen and Government chiefs were appointed. The Sumai tribe declared, when visited, that they were not disposed to fight with the Government. They commenced at once to build a church and school, and they selected men who were appointed chiefs and village constables. The tribe was completely humbled, and in all probability will not cause further trouble. The Wiorubi tribe were visited. They were peaceful, but they were in civilisation much behind the tribes on the other side of the island. The large houses formerly seen on the Bamu River had been burned, and some of the communities of that district greatly disturbed by the Sisiamia tribe from the interior, according to report.

25. On the 11th March an examination of the coast was begun, extending eastward from the Bebea River. A dozen miles of a mangrove, uninhabitable shore separates the Bebea from the Gama River. The mouth of this latter offers good shelter for small craft. Its banks for the first dozen miles are covered by mangrove. There a tribe was met with in temporary encampment, but they would not communicate then. At thirty miles from the sea the land was still so low that most of the trees were of the mangrove family. There the party was suddenly attacked by a hostile tribe that seemed to have been engaged in clearing a piece of land on the river bank. Owing to a sharp bend in the river, they were not visible until the launch was close to them. They discharged their arrows from under cover within easy distance, and had to be driven out by the rifles of the party. They shifted ground and yelled defiance, but this was stopped when they discovered that one or two of their number had been hit. The patience, courage, and discipline of the native portion of the party was very satisfactory. The lower tribe, the Dabura, communicated freely on the return journey, and gave the name of the upper tribe as Sogeri. They resemble the Kiwai men in appearance, and understand some of their language. Half-a-dozen miles east of the Gama, an estuary was entered which, on the west side, is called Gawai. Between the Gama and the Gawai the country along the coast is all covered by mangrove. The Gawai possesses a numerous population, who live chiefly on sago. These tribes are powerful, and were inclined to be at first very suspicious and reserved, but afterwards assertive and uproarious. They, too, resemble the Kiwai natives. They called themselves Kiapakea. Half-a-mile further up there was another large community, with which also friendly relations were opened, but they were so numerous that great circumspection was deemed necessary in dealing with them. Their land grows much sago, some bread fruit, and other trees. From the river above Neabo Island, a large extent of flat country, all covered by wood, much of it mangrove, was visible all round; towards the north a low

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range of wooded hills could be seen at about a score of miles, running east and west.

About thirty miles from the sea a strong tribe called Umaidai was met with, in two villages several miles apart. The lower division were very suspicious, and could not then be induced to communicate at close quarters. Some presents were left for them and they were quite friendly on the return journey. The upper division, after some difficulty, entered into trading relations with the party. They gave the name of the river—there about three-fourths of a mile wide—as Turama. The country was still too low for permanent occupation by Europeans. Further up the river the Wariada tribe left their village and fled to the bush, but some of them afterwards came up the river in canoes to the next tribe, called Tabara, which soon entered into friendly relations. Some men of that tribe went up stream to warn the next tribe, Wariatutu, of our approach. They were friendly from the first, and so were a number of men of the Pekai tribe, who came down the Gogowaia branch of the Turama. These tribes live on sago, and have affinities with the Fly Estuary people, knowing some words of their language, and building houses like those of the Bamu tribes. A heavy bore, which ascends the river once in twelve hours, was encountered in the Turama above Wariatutu. The country rises a little above Wariatutu, but it is still low. The river approaches to within five or six miles of the low range of hills, which appears to consist not of a single ridge, but to be the southern edge of a hilly nodulated plateau. Two deserted villages—the second about seventy-five miles from the sea—were met with, but no natives were seen. The houses in the two upper deserted villages were of the type of those on the Upper Fly River.

At about four score of miles from the sea the river was tidal, a couple of fathoms deep, and sixty yards wide. The banks were still low, but fit for cultivation here and there. All the natives were friendly on the return journey. In the descent the channel between Neabo and Morigio, about one or two fathoms, was used. No villages were seen on it. Towards the lower end of Morigio a large encampment of people from Haraga and Neabo was met with. Friendly relations were established with them. Morigio is nearly all mangrove. East of Morigio the first headland is the Risk Point of the charts, the next Cape Blackwood. Between the two latter there is a deep water channel by which the s.s. "Merrie England" entered, with a minimum depth of three and a-half to four fathoms at high water. All the projecting promontories are covered by mangrove. Mr. Cameron found the latitude of Cape Blackwood to be south 7 degrees 49 minutes 24 seconds, which appears to be the position assigned to it forty-seven years ago by Captain Blackwood.

On proceeding towards Port Bevan, on the east side of Ibibubari Island, the south end of which is Cape Blackwood, a party of the Paia tribe from Gaumao, which is on the east side of

Port Bevan, was met and communicated with. Ibibubari is unfit for permanent occupation, and so is the country all the way to the Aird Hills. These latter are about 900 feet high, and are very steep on all sides. They are surrounded by deep water, and beyond that by many miles of mangrove country. Mr. Cameron found the latitude of the Aird Hills to be south 7 degrees 27 minutes 33 seconds. Friendly relations were opened with some natives hunting there. There is no permanent occupation in that neighbourhood.

About half a dozen miles beyond the Aird Hills there are some low ridges that could be used for building purposes. Half a score of miles from the Aird Hills the river enters ranges of low fossiliferous limestone hills, which seem to be continuous with those seen on the Turama. The steam launch having broken down a few miles above the Aird Hills, a party proceeded up the river in a whaleboat. These were surrounded by about 300 bowmen in the Kikori River, and to escape destruction had to disperse the natives. This attack was made at a place where a large native force was drawn up to meet Mr. Bevan as he descended the same river when travelling there some years ago. The conduct of the Papuan constables on this occasion was most satisfactory.

On the 24th March the party went through the Aumotury Channel, and had friendly communication with the two large villages of Anawaida and Oteai, both on the south side of the passage. All the villages on the Omati River were then visited. They are all sago-eaters, but some of them grow a few bananas, and some taro. The principal village is Baiaa, one of the largest in the Possession. The houses are of the Fly River pattern, and the men all armed with the bow and arrow. At Baiaa there are some cocoanut trees. There is a great deal of sago on the Omati. The natives were all armed and suspicious, but friendly communication was had with them all while the party was ascending the river. At about a score of miles from the sea it is about one hundred and fifty yards wide and two and a-half fathoms deep.

At about that spot the village of Naimesse was passed, its men coming out to trade. They did not carry their bows and arrows. A little beyond this place the Omati enters the low range of limestone hills, and breaks up into numerous small creeks. No natives were met with beyond Naimesse. A great fleet of canoes came out from Baiaa to meet the party as it descended. Manifestly they had not formed any plan of attack, many of them being in small canoes and unarmed, but some mischievous, disappointed individuals were detected in the act of drawing their bows to discharge arrows on the nearest of the party, and to frustrate them a few shots had to be fired at the bows of their canoes, but no person was hit, and the other natives, who were looking on, were not much scared by this occurrence.

On the 26th March, the Aird River, ascended by Captain Blackwood in 1845, was examined, and friendly communication was had with the two large villages of Neuri and Dubumabai, near its entrance on the east side, and later also with the village of Upua, on the opposite side. These are all sago-feeders. The

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Kikori was again ascended, and a visit paid to Tumu, a village on the left bank on the limestone hills. No natives were met on the Kikori, and friendly communication was had with Tumu, although they were extremely suspicious. It would be a favourable locality for the establishment of a station.

The country generally, from the Fly to Cape Blackwood, is too low and wet for European settlement. There is no communication between the Fly and Aird River tribes, but intercourse will now gradually be opened up between them. Except sago, the natives have little to offer as an article of export. Mr. Cameron's sketch map* gives a good idea of this part of the Possession.

26. When the examination of the western end of the gulf was completed it was decided to proceed west to the boundary with Dutch New Guinea, as this was about the time when the Dutch tribes cross the frontier to maraud along the western coast of the Possession.

On the 5th April a strong party started from Mabudauan, and went along the coast westward, carefully examining the old Tugeri camps on the way. It was clear that their halting-places on the Mai Kussa and Wasi Kussa had not been occupied for a year. A night was spent near the mouth of the Morehead, and next night was passed at sea opposite the boundary. No recent trace of the Tugeri tribes was seen.

The coast was examined by the party for nearly two score of miles past the boundary, but, to not violate Dutch territory, the boats had to keep about three miles off the land. No sign of permanent occupation was seen until a point some thirty or thirty-five miles west of the 141 degrees of east longitude was reached. Thereabout groves of cocoanut trees came into sight. According to some of the natives that took Mr. Montague west, they landed him at a village in that locality.

27. On the 5th June it was reported at Port Moresby that the Tugeri tribes had invaded the western end of the Possession, and had penetrated as far as Mabudauan. A start was made three days later for the west, with the object of repelling the marauders by force. It was found, on arrival at the station, that the invasion was no myth, that the Tugeri had come along the coast to that place, and had fled when they saw the constabulary turn out armed. Their traces were followed up as fast as possible by a strong party, but the flight of the Tugeri had been so precipitate that their return camp in Thomson Bay appeared to have been last occupied about a week or ten days before it was reached by us. It was clearly useless to continue the pursuit any further, as it was manifest they could not then be on the British side of the boundary. Not a native was seen on the coast between Mabudauan and Thomson Bay, as the pursuing party went west, so thorough is the depopulation effected by these ravaging tribes. As is well known, the sovereignty of the Netherlands is accepted as being in force

* Not printed.

in the western portion of New Guinea up to the 141st degree of east longitude. In consequence of this the authorities of the Possession cannot reach these people in their homes, which appear to be about two score of miles inside of Netherlands territory. Nothing whatever has been done by the Netherlands Government to restrain or to civilise these tribes, the incursions of which have been a most serious drawback to the work of administration generally, while they have been ruinous to the country that lies west of Mabudauan. This could easily be stopped were it not that the Tugeri are shielded by the sovereignty of the Netherlands.

GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AND WORKS.

28. During the year the schooner "Hygeia" was laid up and sold, and a ketch of about a dozen tons was built to take the place of the schooner. Experience showed that the larger vessel cost about £1,700 a year, and that nothing was more clear than that the services performed by that craft were ridiculously out of proportion to the outlay. The ketch cost, before reaching her station, fully £600. It is anticipated that much more work will be performed by the smaller vessel, and at a greatly reduced expenditure.

Several pieces of land were purchased from natives, generally after it had been applied for by intending purchasers. Purchases of land from natives are seldom made, if not required for settlement by Europeans or others; but 3,000 or 4,000 acres bought near to Port Moresby remains in the possession of the Crown. It is chiefly grazing land.

29. The principal works executed during the year are mentioned in the reports of the officers appended hereto:—

At Mabudauan a fine roomy house was built for the constabulary, of timber sawn on the station. More land was cleared and planted, but it is not of good quality, so that the station could only with difficulty be made self-supporting. Among the maps* attached to this Report will be found one of the district from the Paho uri to the Oriomo, showing the course of those two rivers as far as they are navigable by boats, and giving the approximate positions of the several tribes occupying that part of the country. This map was prepared by Mr. Cameron.

At the Mekeo Government Station several acres have been cleared and planted, and now the establishment does not require to purchase vegetable food. House accommodation for the constabulary and for storage was built, with other outhouses. A well was sunk and properly fitted up with walling and gear. A substantial slab fence has been built round the station; and a large embankment has been made at the landing-place on the river. Many introduced plants of economic value have been successfully planted and tended there.

* Not printed.

30. A detailed account of the work performed by the prisoners at Port Moresby will be found in the Report* of Mr. F. E. Lawes, Resident Magistrate for the district. It comprises road making, fencing, house-building, digging wells, clearing cocoanut plantations, and many other things. The planting of cocoanuts was continued near Port Moresby as far as means and opportunity permitted.

At Rigo Station a new well was dug and made serviceable A substantial prison and quarters for the constabulary were built, and the planting of cocoanuts was continued; there are now about 3,000 of these planted out. This station grew the vegetable food required for the constabulary, and supplied some for use at Port Moresby.

At Samarai a suitable church was built, food was planted, and several acres of land on the mainland cleared and planted with cocoanuts. The whole island is now planted. Very little work could be performed at the Magistrate's station at Bogoya, Misima, as the land obtainable there is limited in quantity. But a number of imported fruit trees are doing well about the station. Permanent buildings were not erected there, and the station is to be shifted to Nivani Island.

The Government has, in round numbers, planted altogether about 25,000 cocoanuts. It would be very greatly to the advantage of the future if the same rate of planting could be continued for the next ten years.

A great drawback to the introduction of economic plants is the fact that the soil at Port Moresby is not well suited for such a nursery. There is want of shade and of water there. The Government station at Mekeo is in every way well adapted to such a purpose, but it is at an inconvenient distance from the port, and there is often much risk in transporting tender plants there.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

31. Officers employed in the service of the Government on the 30th June last were as follows :—

Office.	Name.	Date of assuming Office.	Emoluments per Annum.
	Port Moresby.		
Administrator - -	Sir William MacGregor, M.D., K.C.M.G.	4th September 1888 -	1,500*l.* and 200*l.* allowance.
Private Secretary -	Hon. M. H. Moreton -	7th November 1890 -	300*l.*
Chief Judicial Officer -	Hon. F. P. Winter, C.M.G.	24th October 1888 -	1,000*l.*
Government Secretary -	Hon. A. Musgrave -	4th September 1888	500*l.* and 200*l.* allowance

The above are provided for by the sums reserved to Her Majesty by the Letters Patent.

* Not printed.

Office.	Name.	Date of assuming Office.	Emoluments per Annum.
	Port Moresby—continued.		
Treasurer - -	The Hon. T. H. Hatton Richards.	1st October 1890 -	300*l.*
Commandant Constabulary.	George Wriford - -	1st October 1890 -	300*l.*
Government Printer -	J. G. Allen - -	4th September 1888	300*l.*
Government Storekeeper	A. W. Butterworth -	9th October 1890 -	200*l.*
Gaoler and Overseer -	Dennis Gleeson - -	4th September 1888	250*l.*
Government Surveyor -	J. J. Cobon - -	18th July, 1891 -	450*l.*
Assistant Surveyor -	R. J. Kennedy - -	18th July, 1891 -	100*l.*
	Samarai.		
Sub-Collector of Customs	David Ballantine - -	25th July 1889 -	225*l.*
	Magisterial.		
Resident Magistrate, Eastern Division.	James Martin Hennessy -	1st April 1892 -	400*l.* and 50*l.* allowance.
Resident Magistrate, Louisiades.	Henry Neville Chester -	30th October 1891 -	300*l.*
Resident Magistrate, Central Division.	Hon. F. E. Lawes -	28th October 1890 -	350*l.*
Resident Magistrate, Western Division.	Hon. B. A. Hely - -	21st October 1888 -	500*l.*
	Government Agents.		
Rigo District - -	A. C. English - -	28th June 1890 -	250*l.*
Mekeo District - -	C. Kowald - - -	9th October 1890 -	200*l.*
	S.S. "Merrie England."		
Master - - -	John A. Young - -	29th April 1892 -	300*l.*
Chief Engineer - -	Henry Phillips - -	8th August 1889 -	252*l.*

32. The Chief Judicial Officer was some three months on leave of absence from the Colony. No sittings of the Central Court were held during that period. The Government Secretary was absent on leave after the end of February. The duties of that officer were very efficiently discharged by Mr. Richards, in addition to his own particular functions. Mr. Winter attended to the local audit during the absence of Mr. Musgrave. Mr. Hely was on vacation leave for three months, but was detained by illness to the end of the year beyond the Possession. Mr. Lawes was also granted vacation leave for three months, but did not take advantage of the full term.

33. No case of serious illness occurred; but most of the officers had slight attacks of fever.

34. The armed constabulary lost two men during the year, both Solomon Islanders. One of them committed suicide when

suffering from mental aberration; the other died in hospital at Brisbane, of typhoid fever according to report, when on the way to Sydney to bring up the new lugger.

35. It is much to be regretted that the funds at the disposal of the Government do not permit of any further extension of the Civil Service of the Possession. Government Agents are wanted —one in the Western District, another in the Gulf of Papua, one in the Mairu District, one on the North-east Coast, and one at Kiriwina. This would involve an additional expenditure of nearly £2,000, and therefore cannot at present be undertaken. If these appointments could be made, the whole coast line of the Colony would soon be completely under control. In last year's Report it was stated that the coast line of the mainland is 1,320 miles, and that of the islands 1,070 miles. But more accurate measurements give a total coast line for the Possession of 3,664 statute miles—1,728 on the mainland, and 1,936 on the islands. If this length of line is remembered, the number of officers desired in order to bring it under authority will be considered to be very moderate. It has not been felt that the present time is so prosperous as to justify any actual request for increased expenditure. The most rigid economy is necessary to make ends meet with the establishments constituted as at present.

36. The employment of the natives of the country as boatmen, policemen, gaol warders, &c., has been persevered with, and the results may be considered satisfactory. It is equally advantageous as a means of education for a considerable number of natives, and as an arrangement that is economical for the Treasury.

The number of men employed as policemen in their own villages is being slowly but steadily added to. The plan has been so successful that some legislation will be proposed soon to put them on a regular and legal footing, as the experiment has proceeded sufficiently far to show that the village police can be made a very useful and important service, while its cost will be very little.

METEOROLOGY.

37. Stations for meteorological observations have been established at Port Moresby, Samarai, Mekeo, and Mabudauan. Unfortunately, complete records can hardly be procured except at Port Moresby, owing to the fact that officers at other stations are often necessarily absent from their headquarters on other duties. At Mekeo the observations have been undertaken by the Rev. Père Vitali, of the Sacred Heart Mission. The records of observations were forwarded to Mr. Wragge, Government Meteorologist of Queensland, who has kindly prepared the report and tables annexed hereto as Appendix V.*

* Not printed.

From the tables it will be seen that the mean atmospheric pressure for the year 1891, at Port Moresby, taken at 9 a.m., was 29·919.

The grand mean temperature for the year was 83·0°. The highest shade temperature for the year, 96·2°, was registered on the 2nd February; the lowest, 72°, on the 27th August, giving an extreme range of temperature of 24·2°. The difference between the mean minimum and the mean maximum temperature of the month is greatest about the change of winds, 11·4° in April and May, and 11·25° in October and November.

The rainfall for the year was 72 inches, of which fully 53 inches fell in the first five months of the year; only 2 inches fell in the last three months. It rained on 95 days.

The figures for Samarai cover twelve months, from April, 1891, to March, 1892. The rain measured there amounted to 126·5 inches, and it fell on 174 days. During the three months of July, August, and September 59 inches were recorded at Samarai, and only 15 inches fell during the same period at Port Moresby, Mugula (Dufaure Island) is the locality where the Port Moresby and Samarai climates seem to meet.

At Port Moresby the wind blows generally from the north-west from January to April inclusive, at other times from the south-east. But further west, where free of the mountain ranges, it comes more generally from the west or south-west than from the north. In the east end a south-west wind is probably the most frequent one from December to April.

The rainfall for Mabudauan, as marked in the tables, 53·5 inches, merely indicates the measurements actually made, and does not represent the rainfall for the year.

TRADE.

Imports.

38. The total of Imports entered at Port Moresby and Samarai respectively, has been:—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1888–89 - -	6,016 0 0	5,019 0 0	11,108 0 0
1889–90 - -	6,798 0 0	9,305 0 0	16,104 0 0
1890–91 - -	7,455 0 0	8,075 0 0	15,530 0 0
1891–92 - -	10,379 0 0	13,377 0 0	23,7[illegible] 0 0

The principal items were :—

	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.
	£	£	£	£
Food stuffs - -	5,400	7,124	4,463	6,037
Drapery - -	1,185	1,392	1,457	2,133
Tobacco and cigars -	996	1,290	2,354	3,257
Hardware - -	927	1,123	1,535	2,677
Beverages - -	805	1,143	688	890
Clothes - -	550	190	255	705
Building materials -	246	1,086	1,224	1,965
Other articles -	999	2,756	3,554	6,091
Total -	11,108	16,104	15,530	23,755

The increase on tobacco is an indication of the more extensive employment of natives, who are, to a large extent, paid for work in that article. The quantity of building materials has been brought about by the additional settlement of Europeans in the Possession.

Exports.

The total value of exports, as entered at the Custom-house, has been :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888-89 - -	5,071	871	5,943
1889-90 - -	5,458	997	6,455
1890-91 - -	7,678	755	8,134
1891-92 - -	8,099	3,190	11,289

In the above figures for 1891-92 there is included an export of 894 ounces of gold, valued at 2,995*l.*; but, through the kindness of Mr. Burkitt, the quantity of gold entered at Cooktown from New Guinea during the year can be stated here. It was 1,235 ounces, which would have been worth at least 4,322*l.*

That the produce of gold is falling off is shown by comparison with previous years.

Gold entered at the Custom-house, Cooktown, from the Possession, has been:—

	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.
Ounces - -	3,850	3,470	2,426	1,235
Value - -	£14,387	£12,440	£8,371	£4,322

During the year there were about two score of diggers, on an average, on each of the islands of Misima and Tagula. Only the men that are acclimatised, that know the natives, and can employ them as labourers, carriers, &c., can make a living. The alluvial washing is apparently now at an end.

Like gold, the bêche-de-mer fishery has been decreasing in value as an export, as shown by comparing the exports of different years. The produce of this fishery for the last four years has been:—

Export of Bêche-de-Mer.

	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.
Tons - -	38½	70¼	64¼	49
Value - -	£2,178	£4,682	£5,030	£3,401

As an industry this fishery cannot at any time assume much larger permanent importance.

There was some revival in the pearl-shell fishery, the figures showing a value of 542*l.* as against 85*l.* for the preceding year. The difficulty connected with this fishery continues to be, not the absence of good shell, but the too great depth of the water in which it is found. Copra will, undoubtedly, soon become the principal export. At present this industry is in its infancy, but in a few years it will be of great importance, and it will have the special advantage over gold, pearl shell, and bêche-de-mer of giving a perennial yield, which cannot but grow with time.

The copra exported has been:—

1888–89 - -	76 tons,	valued at	550*l.*
1889–90 - -	43 „	„	250*l.*
1890–91 - -	198 „	„	1,433*l.*
1891–92 - -	340 „	„	2,084*l.*

The profits derived from this export do not appear to be considerable under present arrangements freight being too costly; but no

doubt that will after some time be remedied, when copra-making will speedily increase.

It will be noticed that 42 tons of of sandal-wood were exported, valued at £290. This export will be of some use for a few years until more permanent articles of production are made available, but it will not last long in any one district, and that which is nearest the coast will soon be exhausted.

Shipping

39. No foreign shipping visited the Possession during the year. The total number of foreign-going vessels that entered during the twelve months was thirty-two, of 3,443 tons; clearances were twenty-two, of 2,226 tons. Two sailing vessels traded regularly—one from Cooktown, chiefly to the east end of the Possession, and the other from Thursday Island, to the central districts.

Postal.

40. As indicated in paragraph 7, the Possession joined the Universal Postal Union during the year, but without thereby in any way changing its relations and arrangements with the Queensland Department. Postal business has been as follows:—

Article.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.
Letters received - - -	2,366	3,166	2,664	4,393
Letters despatched - -	2,587	2,586	2,191	3,917
Packets received - -	93	111	142	43
Packets despatched - -	98	84	88	78
Newspapers received - -	4,071	6,844	6,042	8,505
Newspapers despatched - -	574	590	468	756

MISSION WORK.

41. The principal event during the year in regard to Mission work was the commencement of operations by the Wesleyan Church. Their first party arrived from Sydney, accompanied by the Rev. George Brown, in the month of June, 1891, and promptly set about establishing themselves on Dobu. In a surprisingly short time a substantial dwelling-house was built there, and South Sea Island teachers were stationed in a number of native villages. Four European ministers and some two dozen native teachers formed the first party. The Chairman of the Mission is the Rev. W. Bromilow, who had, from the first, a very able and devoted helper in Mrs. Bromilow. Besides the headquarters of the Mission at Dobu Island, a Mission was opened at Pannaetti, under the management of the Rev. Mr. Fellowes. Native teachers were

stationed among several tribes on the islands of Dobu, Moratau (Fergusson), Duau (Normanby), Pannaetti, Pannapompon, Misima, Wari, and at East Cape, on the mainland. The progress achieved in settling and housing the teachers put in clear relief the energy and activity of the Mission. The work done among the natives was, in all probability, as great as, if not greater than, has ever been accomplished by any new mission among people equally barbarous in the same space of time. The moment had come for the commencement of Mission work in that part of the Possession. The most powerful of the tribes were beginning to perceive that a new force—the Government—was making its presence and power felt among them. Some time before the arrival of the Mission, Dr. Loria stopped a head-hunting expedition which was leaving Dobu, by threatening to report the matter to the Government if they proceeded any further. They had, when the Mission was opened, reached the stage when bad advice might have brought them into serious collision with the Government, or when wise counsel would be of infinite value to them. The Mission has so ably and loyally utilised the opportunity that, if their work is continued with the devoted earnestness with which it has been begun, the social and moral position of all the islands will in a very few years be changed beyond recognition.

42. The Anglican Mission, which had taken up as its field the north-east coast from Cape Ducie to Mitre Rock, was completely stunned by the death of the Rev. A. Maclaren, at the end of the year. He was possessed of all the high qualities that seemed necessary to make a man a great missionary among such a people—enthusiasm, originality, and strong sympathy. High hopes were entertained as to the work he and his Mission would be able to accomplish among the native tribes. His death was a very serious public loss. Under the management of the Rev. C. King, the Mission-house at Wedau has been completed, and all is now prepared at the station for the reception of other workers. Mr. King has established services and a school for the natives nearest the station.

43. The London Missionary Society, the pioneer mission of the Possession, made considerable progress in opening new stations and in improving the old ones. In the east end several new teachers were placed by the Revs. A. Walker and C. W. Abel, and they have built and constructed a model station at Kwato as the head-quarters of their district.

The Rev. W. Pearse also took up more ground with new teachers, and had one of the Gospels translated into the Kerepunu tongue and printed, with some useful school-books. The Rev. Mr. Dauncey had for a large part of the time the whole of the Motu district under his care. Some new stations were taken up in that district also. The Rev. W. G. Lawes saw, during the year, the completion of his great task—the translation into the Motu tongue, and the publication, of the New Testament. Time and experience will show that this has been done in a most able and scholarly manner. In the Motu Motu district the Rev. James Chalmers has

perseveringly continued his work among the impulsive and boisterous tribes of that country. He has unquestionably been a powerful factor in diminishing quarrels and bloodshed in that part of the Possession. During the year he also began to take in hand the nearly extinct Fly River Mission, which greatly needed the directing influence of a man of the experience, courage, and energy of Mr. Chalmers.

44. Much progress was made by the Sacred Heart Mission during the year in the Mekeo district, under the superintendence of Bishop Verjus. Working loyally and harmoniously with the Government, Bishop Verjus was able, by his energy and wisdom, to render assistance to the officers of the Government in resettling some of the tribes of the district after the intertribal conflict which necessitated the forcible interference of the Government, and at the same time to strengthen the position of the Mission with the natives of the locality. Several new stations were opened during the year. That under Père Vitali, at Inawi, made remarkably satisfactory advancement. He built a large, substantial, handsome church, of which the Inawi people are not a little proud.

There is good reason to believe that all the more important tribes on the south coast will, before long, be more or less under missionary influence. The largest gap is at present in the Gulf of Papua, but that will, in all probability, speedily be reduced by the means for travelling now being provided for Mr. Chalmers. The four Missions now at work will, in a few years, practically cover all the coast line, but it will probably be several decades before all the inland tribes are supplied with teachers.

LAND.

45. A few applications were received during the year for the purchase of land for European settlement, but the smallness of the number was very disappointing. Practically all that were made were complied with.

A surveyor was employed during the year, and the first Crown Grant was issued shortly before the end of the twelve months.

A considerable number of claims to land were dealt with, but these can better be reported on after the Crown Grants have been issued for them.

PRISONS.

46. No department of the Administration has been more successful than that of prisons. There are now prisons at Mabudauan, Mekeo, Port Moresby, Rigo, and Samarai.

There are some half-dozen long-sentence prisoners at Mabudauan, in addition to which there are casual cases waiting for trial or serving sentences of a few days imprisonment under the Native Regulations.

Half-a-dozen long-sentenced men have also been sent to the Mekeo Station on account of their labour, and a similar number

have been transferred to the Rigo Station for planting, growing food, &c.

The chief prison still remains at Port Moresby. Fifty-six persons were received into prison there, and forty were transferred or discharged. There was no death. The maximum number in gaol was thirty-four, the minimum fourteen.

This prison has been, in its management, all that could reasonably have been desired. In consequence of the strict discipline, the regular hours of labour and of rest, the daily school lessons, the services of a chaplain on Sunday, and, above all, the firmness, steadiness, and kindness of Mr. Dennis Gleeson, head gaoler, who takes a deep personal interest in each individual prisoner, this prison has become a very valuable educational and civilising institution. In several districts returned prisoners are the firm and sure supporters of the Government.

The two great difficulties—an excessive mortality, and the incessant escape of prisoners—that had at first to be contended with have been completely overcome.

The state of health in the Samarai prison was very satisfactory. Sunday services are held there by members of the London Missionary Society from the neighbouring island of Kwato. The number of prisoners kept there is not, as a rule, over a dozen or fifteen. The two principal prisons were several times inspected during the year, and were found to be clean and well kept. The buildings are substantial and suitable in every way.

FINANCE.

Revenue.

47. The amount of revenue paid into the Queensland Treasury by the Possession during the year was 4,783*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* It is compared below with that of the three preceding years :—

Items.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs dues - -	2,419 10 2	2,893 10 4	2,525 13 2	4,428 14 11
Goldfield receipts -	187 17 0	20 15 0	23 0 0	24 0 0
Fees, shipping and court	1 18 0	4 10 0	4 3 0	10 14 0
Fines - - -	25 13 6	41 10 0	46 5 0	34 0 0
Licenses - - -	2 0 0	11 0 0	21 0 0	136 15 0
Miscellaneous - -	42 13 2	44 8 0	53 18 2	149 12 6
Total - -	2,679 11 10	3,015 13 4	2,673 19 4	4,783 16 5

A very considerable increase will be noticed under Customs dues. It has arisen without any change in the tariff, and is a result of growth in trade and settlement.

Expenditure.

48. The full sum of 15,000*l.* available for the current Administrative services for the year, was expended. The actual expenditure is classified below, and compared with that of previous years:—

Head of Expenditure.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Civil List salaries -	2,633 19 7	3,300 0 0	3,290 12 8	3,300 0 0
Other salaries - -	1,796 0 6	2,381 18 6	3,476 10 5	3,559 2 0
Vessels and boats -	2,747 11 4	2,564 3 0	2,938 16 3	2,993 6 5
Allowances—house and travelling — for all officers.	1,296 13 11	2,548 3 2	1,500 0 0	1,356 0 5
Buildings - -	185 1 10	1,144 19 3	979 0 8	780 10 1
Agriculture - -	2 10 0	137 11 9	355 9 2	335 12 3
Mail service - -	445 0 0	—	—	—
Miscellaneous - -	1,662 14 1	2,898 9 8	2,459 10 10	2,675 8 10
Total - -	10,769 11 3	14,975 5 4	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0

The full amount voted was expended on Civil List salaries. On other salaries there was a saving of 165*l.* 18*s.*, which arose from temporary vacancies in certain offices. On vessels and boats there was an excess of expenditure of 471*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* This arose from the necessity of obtaining a vessel fit for sea, for the use of the Resident Magistrate in the Eastern Division, to replace the "Hygeia" when laid up for sale. An excess of 180*l.* was necessary on buildings. A strong and fire-proof room had to be built for important records, and the female prison at Port Moresby had to be reconstructed, while some extra expense was incurred on buildings at the Rigo Station. A considerable sum had to be expended on repairs.

Exploration Fund.

49. The year began with a credit to this account of 717*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* Of this, 208*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* was expended, leaving a balance of 509*l.* 5*s.* at the end of the year. The expenditure charged to this account was mainly in connection with the geological examination made

of part of the Possession, and in payment of an engineer for the launch "Ruby" when examining the west end of the Gulf of Papua.

S.S. "Merrie England."

50. The total expenditure in connection with the s.s. "Merrie England" was 7,469*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, but 534*l.* 11*s.* of this was covered by refunds and earnings, leaving a net expenditure of 6,934*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*, or 5*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* less than for the preceding twelve months. As was the case for the previous year, the Imperial Government gave 5,000*l.* and the contributing Colonies 2,000*l.* for the maintenance of the steamer.

During the year the "Merrie England" used 701 tons of coal, and ran about 15,000 miles.

NATIVE DIALECTS.

51. Of the progress made in studying the native dialects during the year, only two results are given here—vocabularies of the Kiriwina and Dobu languages—which will be found as Appendix U.*

The former is of special interest on account of the position of that group, between the mainland of New Guinea and the Pacific Islands that lie to the east of Kiriwina. There has been much difficulty in obtaining any considerable knowledge of this language, owing to the all but complete absence of interpretation of any kind.

The Dobu vocabulary is of great value. It has been prepared by the Rev. W. Bromilow, the Chairman of the Wesleyan Mission, who knows this language far better than any other European. It is, as printed, sufficiently extensive for all practical purposes, and its accuracy can be relied on. In all probability it will become the literary, and in that way the general, native language of the D'Entrecasteaux Group and of some of the neighbouring islands.

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS.

52. A good deal of the scientific work undertaken during the year remains in an uncompleted form, and cannot be included in this Report. Mr. A. Gibb Maitland, of the Queensland Geological Survey, visited the Possession, and he has since prepared an elaborate report of great value and interest. Mr. Maitland has dealt with the whole subject of the Geology of the Possession as far as it is known, reviewing the work of previous observers and adding thereto his own observations and studies. In this way he has produced a Report that will serve as a point of departure for all future geological work in connection with the Possession.

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* Not printed.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS.

53. The several Reports* by officers, comprised in Appendices O to R hereto, will be found to be well worth perusal. Mr. Lawes shows that the natives of the Central district were unusually comfortable during the year, and that much planting was carried on by them. Trade between natives and Europeans, and the planting of cocoanuts, also made satisfactory progress there. Many claims to land were investigated. He also gives a detailed account of the work performed by prisoners in the district. In one or two districts ground has been temporarily lost among quiet but suspicious tribes.

Mr. Morton's Report on the Eastern Division is of special importance, as there was no report on that division in last year's Annual Report. The favourable opinion he formed of the conduct, disposition, and receptive faculties of the natives is very encouraging. He found them "most amenable to order." The enumeration of improvements carried out during Mr. Moreton's term of office will show that prisoners were not allowed to be idle at Samarai.

Mr. Kowald's Report* on the Mekeo district gives a fairly correct idea of the work carried on there by the Government Agent. It shows that peace has been established among all the powerful tribes living under his jurisdiction, as at present constituted, and that the cultivation of new products is likely to be of much importance.

Mr. A. C. English shows that the tribes of his district have been settling down into peaceful communities, some of which have been preparing large cocoanut plantations. There was, during the year, no case of murder in his district; up to two years ago murder was an extremely common occurrence in that locality.

Owing to the change of officers in the Louisiades and in the Western Division, there are no specific reports from those districts.

GENERAL.

54. The usual yearly visit was made by me to Brisbane for the despatch of business there. During that interval Mr. Winter acted as Deputy-Administrator in the Possession, and very efficiently performed the duties of that office.

The usual kind assistance of the Government of Queensland was given in refitting s.s. "Merrie England," which was done under the general supervision of Captain Almond, Portmaster, and of Mr. Stewart, Engineer. The Possession had also to thank Sir Samuel W. Griffith, Premier of Queensland, for the services of other departments of the Government, as well as for

* Not printed.

assistance in many matters of general business to which he gave personal attention.

55. The Government of the Possession is under a great obligation to Mr. A. McDowall, the Surveyor-General of Queensland, and to Mr. R. H. Lawson, Chief Draughtsman, for the very great amount of trouble they have taken in having prepared the many sketch maps of different parts of the Possession got ready for this Report and for other purposes. Mr. McDowall has, with the greatest courtesy and kindness, performed many other useful services for the Possession, in procuring and forwarding instruments and other articles. Without his co-operation, the geography of the colony could not have been nearly so well known as it is now.

56. In the month of December Sir Samuel Griffith paid a short visit to the Possession, and saw the coast from Hall Sound to Wedau on the north-east coast, and also something of the islands at the east end of the mainland. This is the first visit that has been paid to the Colony by any member of the Governments of the contributing Colonies. It is an event of so much importance in the history of the Possession that Sir Samuel Griffith's despatch to Your Excellency on this visit should clearly be included in this Report. It will be found as Appendix W.*

It has always been felt by me that the Government of the Possession will be the stronger the better its work and aims are known to the Colonies that contribute the funds required to carry on the Administration. To make all Administrative proceedings as well known as has been practicable, full details have been from time to time supplied to Your Excellency in despatches from myself; but occasional visits, like that of Sir Samuel Griffith, by one of the leading statesmen representing the Colonies specially interested, cannot but be of the greatest value in conveying to the Colonial Governments and to the Secretary of State just ideas of the needs and circumstances of the Possession, and cannot fail at the same time to strengthen the hands of the Administrator. It should also not be lost sight of that the present arrangements for the government of the Possession will remain in force for less than six years, and that then the whole question of the future Administration of the country will come up for reconsideration. On this account also it is very necessary that at least a certain number of Australian statesmen should possess local knowledge of the country.

57. The results of native administration appear, on the whole, fairly satisfactory for the year. In not a few districts natives are settling down to more systematic work in preparing exports for the trader. In certain others they have planted out very considerable quantities of cocoanuts for their own use and profit. In some of the districts where native murders were fearfully common

* Not printed.

two or three years ago, this crime has completely disappeared or become very rare. No doubt what in these days may be called "much time" is required to acquaint the Papuan tribes with the working of Government and the impartial and beneficial action of law. But they possess an aptitude for such tuition which cannot but appear to be extraordinary to any person acquainted with the history of civilisation among the present existing cultured races of our globe. If the Papuans are allowed anything like a reasonable time—a time which, compared to that required for such a purpose by other races, would be a very short period—there can be no doubt that they will become a very considerable, if not an important, unit in the Australasian dominions of the Queen.

During the year there was manifested a greater tendency on the part of the few non-native residents in the Possession to form plantations of cocoanut trees, &c. Every possible facility has been given to these men to encourage them to plant, and a few have taken advantage of the position and have made fair commencements; but there is great want of a number of men with some capital and a sufficient knowledge of the different branches of tropical agriculture, to introduce new industries and to show to the natives the results of steady application under the peace and order of civilisation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. MACGREGOR,
Administrator.

His Excellency Sir Henry Wylie Norman, G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.
Governor of Queensland.

No. 2.

The MARQUESS OF RIPON to Sir H. W. NORMAN.

SIR, Downing Street, February 8, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 7th December last forwarding the Annual Report of the Administrator of British New Guinea for the year 1891-2.

I entirely concur in the view expressed both by yourself and by Sir Samuel Griffith as to the value of the work which is being performed by Sir Wm. MacGregor within the Possession.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RIPON.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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No. 131.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 1892–3 AND 1893–4.

(For Report for 1891–92, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 68.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
March 5, 1895.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
96	Sierra Leone	1892
97	Fiji	"
98	Rodrigues	"
99	St. Helena	"
100	British Bechuanaland	1892-93
101	British Guiana	"
102	Newfoundland	1892
103	Jamaica	1892-93
104	Victoria	1892
105	Bermuda	1893
106	Gambia	"
107	Hong Kong	"
108	St. Vincent	"
109	Gibraltar	"
110	Bahamas	"
111	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
112	Leeward Islands	"
113	Barbados	"
114	Malta	"
115	Zululand	"
116	British Honduras	"
117	Trinidad and Tobago	"
118	Falkland Islands	"
119	Rodrigues	"
120	Mauritius	"
121	Straits Settlements	"
122	Labuan	"
123	Basutoland	"
124	St. Lucia	"
125	St. Helena	"
126	Ceylon	"
127	Fiji	"
128	Grenada	"
129	Sierra Leone	"
130	British Bechuanaland	1893-94

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 131.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

[For Report for 1891–92, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 68.]

No. 1.

Sir H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Brisbane,
July 18, 1894.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

I HAVE the honour to enclose the Annual Report of the British New Guinea Administration for the year ending 30th June, 1893.

2. Owing to delays in the printing and revision of this report, which is dated the 20th December last, I only received it on the 20th June, when I at once referred it for the observations of the Queensland Government.

I have not yet received the remarks of Mr. Nelson, and as the Report should have been transmitted to your Lordship some time ago, I will not detain it longer, and therefore send it forward. My own observations will follow, together with those which I may receive from the Chief Secretary.

I have, &c.
H. W. NORMAN

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1892-3.

ANNUAL REPORT on BRITISH NEW GUINEA from 1st July 1892, to 30th June, 1893.

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Sir WM. MACGREGOR to Sir H. W. NORMAN.

SIR, Government House, December 20, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to present the usual Annual Report, as directed by Section XXXVI. of the Royal Instructions, for the year ending on the 30th June, 1893.

LEGISLATION.

1. Comparatively little was added to the laws of the Possession during the year. There has been no legislation where there was not a clear need for it. The settlement of Europeans in the Colony proceeds so slowly that few new laws are necessary on their account; and a multiplicity of laws and regulations would only confuse and discourage a native race passing from the darkness of savage barbarism into the light of civilization.

Each Ordinance, Regulation, or Order, having the force of law, and enacted during the year, is briefly noticed below.

Ordinances.

2. Ordinance No. VI. of 1892 was passed to appropriate a sum not exceeding 15,000*l.* to the Service of the year. This is the sum payable in respect of the necessary expenses of the administration of the Government of the Possession under "*The British New Guinea (Queensland) Act of* 1887." Of this sum 3,300*l.* is set aside for the Civil List salaries, under Section XVII. of the Letters Patent. Other appropriations are: 3,650*l.* for salaries exclusive of those on the Civil List; 2,250*l.* for vessels and boats; and 5,800*l.* for miscellaneous services. The Ordinance also made the balance to the credit of the Exploration Fund, 509*l.* 5*s.*, available for the purposes for which it was intended; and it appropriated 7,000 for the maintenance of the ss. "Merrie England." Of this last sum Her Majesty's Imperial Government provided 5,000*l.*, and the contributing Colonies supplied the other 2,000*l.*

3. Ordinance No. VII. of 1892 was adopted to regulate the cutting of indigenous timber. Several inquiries were made from Australia as to the terms and conditions under which timber could be obtained here for export; a considerable trade in sandalwood was also springing up, and it became necessary to provide against certain abuses connected with it. It is by no means clear that timber can at present be profitably exported from this country, and it seems that the sandalwood market is limited and capricious. It was therefore seen that any restrictions imposed, and any dues to be collected, should be as little burdensome as possible. The Ordinance does not apply to land alienated by the Crown, nor to land leased from the Crown, unless the Crown has reserved the timber on the leased land. District inspectors can be appointed by the Administrator to see that the Ordinance or any Regulation under it is carried out.

The cutting of timber may be altogether prohibited in certain areas, or the cutting of specified kinds of timber only may be disallowed. No sandalwood trees can be cut if of less than twelve

inches circumference a foot from the ground. This limitation was needed because the sandalwood was being generally cut by natives who, especially at first, felled trees of all sizes, but more generally the small ones, which were, of course, useless for export.

A license is required for cutting timber to be sawn otherwise than by hand, or to be exported or sold as timber. The fees payable for licenses, their duration and scope, are to be defined by Regulations. The Ordinance does not apply to timber cut by a native on his own land or for the use of natives.

A native may enter into a contract before a timber inspector to supply any person with a specified quantity of timber at a fixed price, but not for remuneration in the shape of wages.

Regulations were made by the Administrator in Council under this Ordinance on 31st December, 1892. Under these every application for a license to cut timber on Crown lands has to be made in writing. The license may be issued for six or for twelve months. It empowers the licensee and his servants to cut any timber (not forbidden to be cut) on Crown land within the district to which the license applies. A license is not transferable nor transmissible. The license fee is—For twelve months, 2*l.*; for six months, 1*l.* Timber cannot be cut on Crown lands within twenty yards of high-water mark, or within twenty yards of any permanent stream or sheet of water.

4. The object of Ordinance No. VIII. of 1892 was to prevent the introduction into the Possession of parasitic diseases affecting trees and plants. The proximate cause for passing this law was to guard against "coffee leaf disease"; but the enactment is so prepared as to be capable of general application for the protection of any plant of economic value. In this special case of coffee it was found that there was sufficient coffee already growing in the Possession to supply seeds for all future wants. It was free of disease; and in addition to this some coffee seeds were, through the kindness of the Government of Jamaica and the Kew authorities, imported from that Colony, which was said to be free of the disease. There is an unlimited area of land in this country suitable for the cultivation of coffee; and as the presence or absence of "coffee leaf disease" probably means the working of this industry at a loss or at a good profit, it was thought desirable that, as this Colony already possesses healthy coffee, both of the Arabian and Liberian varieties, further importations of plants or seeds should be forbidden.

Under the Ordinance, the introduction of any specified tree or plant may be prohibited; or the importation may be so restricted that it can be made from certain countries only.

Precautions to be taken and conditions to be observed in importing plants may be prescribed by Regulations.

Plants or seeds imported contrary to law may be seized and destroyed.

5. Ordinance No. IX. of 1892 gives the necessary legal authority for certain expenditure during the year in excess of the

sums provided under "*The Appropriation Ordinance of* 1891," These amount to a total of 847*l.* 15*s.* Savings to the same amount were affected on other items. The supplemental expenditure comprised 471*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* on "boats and vessels." This excess was chiefly owing to the purchase of a new ketch for the Eastern Magisterial Division. It was chiefly in connection with the building of a bonded warehouse at Samarai and of quarters for the magistrate of the South-Eastern (Louisiade) Division that the vote for "Buildings and Public Works" was insufficient by 180*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* On "Agriculture," there was an excess of 35*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*, arising from the introduction of new economic plants, and in connection with cocoanut planting.

The vote for "Surveys" was 96*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* less than what was disbursed for them. The sum of 628*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* was expended on this service. Fees collected for surveys are paid with ordinary revenue to the credit of the contributing Colonies, and are not to be used in paying for surveys.

Under the heading of "Unforeseen," there was an unauthorised expenditure on miscellaneous services amounting to 63*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*

Native Regulations.

6. Only one Native Regulation was made by the Native Regulation Board during the year. It is one of much importance, providing for the appointment of village constables. The force of armed constabulary that can be maintained is very far short of what the area, the population, and the difficult nature of the country requires. It would take the whole of the funds at present provided for the expenses of the administration of the Government to provide an armed constabulary sufficient at all points for the requirements of the Colony. It is, therefore, clearly necessary to create, if possible, some cheap auxiliary force.

Under the Regulation the Administrator may appoint village constables, at such rate to pay as he may determine. The village constable can arrest for contravention of a Native Regulation. He is under the authority of the magistrate.

7. An important task connected with Native Regulations was undertaken by Mr. Lawes, Secretary for Native Affairs, who translated the Penal Regulations into the Motu language, the best and most widely understood of all the native dialects.

The first ten Regulations prescribe the procedure to be followed in the Native Courts, and their translation is unnecessary. Those translated by Mr. Lawes deal with—

Stealing - - -	- No. XI. of 1890.
Injuries to persons - -	- No. XII. of 1890.
Burial of the dead - -	- No. XIII. of 1890.
Lying reports and threats -	- No. II. of 1891.
Destroying cocoanut trees -	- No. III. of 1891.
Adultery - - -	- No. IV. of 1891.
Village Constables -	- No. I. of 1892.

It is not necessary, as above stated, to translate the first ten into the native languages, as they are principally for the guidance of the magistrate; but it is of very great importance that the Penal Regulations should be translated, so that the natives can be made to understand what things are forbidden by Regulation.

Probably all teachers of the London Missionary Society can read and explain these Regulations in the Motu tongue; certainly all save one or two of the Government officers, and many settlers can do so, while a certain number of natives can read them.

Order in Council.

8. On the 2nd July, 1892, an Order in Council was passed under, "*The Post and Telegraph Act*, 1891 (*Queensland adopted*)," directing that the Possession should join the Universal Postal Union. This step was necessary as Queensland had joined it, and the Possession is on the footing of a postal district of that Colony.

At the same time Postal Regulations were prepared and approved by the Administrator in Council, on the same lines as those in force in Queensland.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

9. The establishment for the Administration of Justice was described in last year's Annual Report. There has been little or no change.

Mr. F. P. Winter, C.M.G., Chief Judicial Officer, has prepared the following tabulated list of cases dealt with by the Courts during the year:—

MATTERS DEALT WITH JUDICIALLY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1893.

CENTRAL COURT.

Criminal Business.

Number of Persons committed for Trial.	District from which committed.	Persons committed—how disposed of.
13	Central District - -	1 committal quashed. 10 tried. 2 awaiting trial.
16	Eastern District - -	1 sent back to be dealt with summarily. 9 tried. 1 discharged.
7	Western District - -	5 awaiting trial. 7 tried.
Total - 36		

The Court held Fourteen Criminal Sessions at the Places and Times, and with the Results, under-mentioned:—

Number of Persons tried.	Offence charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		SAMARAI—20th and 21st July 1892.	
7	Murder	3 guilty, 4 not guilty	3 death.
		KITAI, BONA-BONA—22nd July, 1892.	
4	3 murder	3 guilty, murder	3 death.
	1 (1) rape, (2) assault	1 guilty, assault	1 three months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		PANNAIETI ISLAND—27th July, 1892.	
1	1 murder	1 Guilty	1 death.
		ROSSEL ISLAND—11th August, 1892.	
2	1 attempt to murder	1 guilty, attempt to murder	2 two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
	1 (1) murder (2) larceny	1 guilty, larceny	
		DOBU—18th August, 1892.	
1	Assault	Not guilty.	
		DUAU (NORMANBY ISLAND)—27th August, 1892.	
2	2 (1) murder, (2) wounding with intent, &c.	2 guilty, wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.	2 five years' penal servitude.
		DABEO, MILNE BAY—30th August, 1892.	
1	(1) murder, (2) wounding with intent, &c.	1 guilty, manslaughter	1 two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
		SAMARAI—5th September, 1892.	
2	1 murder	1 guilty, murder	1 death.
	1 (1) robbery, (2) larceny, (3) receiving stolen goods	1 guilty, receiving stolen goods.	1 twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		RIGO STATION—8th November, 1892.	
5	2 murder	2 guilty, manslaughter	2 twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	3 assault	3 guilty, assault	3 one month's imprisonment with hard labour.
		PERAMA, FLY RIVER—15th December, 1892.	
1	Murder	Guilty, manslaughter	1 one years' imprisonment with hard labour.
		PORT MORESBY—17th December, 1892.	
1	Murder	Guilty	Death.
		SAMARAI—21st and 22nd December, 1892.	
4	3 murder	2 guilty murder, 1 discharged	2 death.
	1 extortion as a constable	1 guilty of extortion as constable.	1 three months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		PORT MORESBY—14th April, 1893.	
7	7 murder	7 guilty, murder	7 death.
		PORT MORESBY—26th May, 1893.	
4	2 murder, 2 sedition	1 guilty, manslaughter, 3 not guilty.	1 twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.
Total 42			

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1892–3.

Civil Business.

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings, &c.
6	Applications for order to administer by Curator of Intestate Estates.
2	Applications for directions by Curator of Intestate Estates.
8	

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Indictable Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Inquiry.
Central District -	18	12 murder - -	13 committed.
		1 unlawfully using explosives.	3 discharged.
		3 assault - -	2 on remand.
		2 sedition - -	
Eastern District -	20	11 murder - -	15 committed.
		4 receiving stolen goods.	1 discharged.
		1 gaol-breaking -	4 on remand.
		1 extortion as a constable.	
		1 indecent assault -	
		2 attempt to murder.	
Western District -	9	9 murder - -	7 committed.
			2 discharged.
	Total 47		

Summary Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central District -	17	2 Injuring property - -	2 convicted.
		4 Breach of Masters and Servants Act.	4 convicted.
		8 Assault - - -	6 convicted, 2 dismissed.
		1 Larceny - - -	1 convicted.
		1 Deserting when armed constable.	1 convicted.
		1 unlawful removal of a native	1 convicted.
Eastern District -	14	1 Resisting the police - -	1 convicted.
		6 Assault - - -	4 convicted, 2 dismissed.
		3 Larceny - - -	3 convicted.
		1 Aggravated assault on a female.	1 convicted.
		1 Obtaining money on false pretences.	1 convicted.
		1 Desertion from ship - -	1 convicted.
		1 disobedience as armed constable.	1 convicted.
Western District -	—	Nil.	
	Total 31		

Civil Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Actions tried.	Amount involved.	Result of Action.
Central District	1	£ s. d. 0 13 6	For plaintiff.
Eastern District	1	5 0 0	For plaintiff.
Western District	—	—	—
	2		

NATIVE MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

Criminal Jurisdiction (Forbidden Acts).

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
No. 3 (Eastern)	7	3 larceny	3 convicted.
		1 abduction of woman	1 convicted.
		3 assault	2 convicted, 1 dismissed.
No. 2 (Central)	36	6 assault	3 convicted, 3 dismissed.
		16 larceny	16 convicted.
		3 adultery	3 convicted.
		1 threatening language	1 convicted.
		4 disobeying magistrate's order.	4 convicted.
		5 burying corpse in village	5 convicted.
		1 injuring property	1 convicted.
No. 1 (Western)	5	3 adultery	3 convicted.
		2 assault	1 convicted, 1 dismissed.
	Total 48		

Civil Jurisdiction (Civil Claims).

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Action.	Result of Trial.
No. 3 (Eastern)	—	—	—
No. 2 (Central)	1	Negligently injuring canoe	Verdict for plaintiff for 1*l.* 10*s.*
No. 1 (Western)	1	Claim to ownership of a garden	Verdict for plaintiff.
	Total 2		

TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court	36
In Courts of Petty Sessions (exclusive of the 36 that went up to Central Court)	42
In Native Magistrates' Courts	48
In all Courts	126

TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court	8
In Courts of Petty Sessions	2
In Native Magistrates' Courts	2
In all Courts	12

Of the 36 persons committed by the lower court for trial on criminal charges before the Central Court, seven remained untried at the close of the year. Of the 29 tried, 18 were sentenced by the court to undergo capital punishment.

The first of these was a native of Pannieti, who killed a woman of another tribe, because some of her relations had, when he was a small boy, killed the head of the murderer's family. He had been hunted from place to place for nearly two years, and was finally captured by some of his own tribe who were assisting the constabulary.

It was the first case of the kind so dealt with in his neighbourhood. The sentence was commuted to penal servitude.

Three men of Basilaki Island were sentenced to death for murdering a man of their own tribe, because he had seduced the wife of one of them. They were not aware that redress could be obtained in court under the native regulations, and, consequently, dealt with the case according to their own usage. The clemency of the Crown was extended to them also.

Three men of Modewa, a village on the coast between Samarai and Suau, were condemned to death for murdering one of their own tribe. The latter had, some eight months previously, killed the wife of one of the three, and a day or two before they fell upon him, he had murdered another women because she refused to marry him. They acted to redress a private wrong, and in the public interest, according to their view, because they said they were afraid he would kill some other person. The prerogative of mercy was exercised in their favour.

The other cases in which capital punishment was imposed and in which the penalty was commuted were the following:—

A man of the Tauputa tribe, on the north-east coast murdered his sister. She had urged another brother to go to hunt wild swine. He went, and was killed by a boar. When overwhelmed with grief the surviving brother killed the sister, probably hardly knowing what he was doing.

A man of one of the Koiari hill villages in the Central District killed a woman at the instigation of her stepson. This woman was about to marry without the consent of the latter, who, according to the custom of the tribe, had the right to dispose of her hand. The stepson acted quite within his tribal rights in causing her to be put to death. The murderer escaped to the mountains, where he was periodically hunted for more than a year and a half by the constabulary and village police, pursued and driven from place to place until he was captured.

Two men of Ware, an Orangerie Bay tribe, murdered a native of Bina, an inland village of the same district. They were apprehended by the constabulary and were duly tried in the Central Court. The victim was a reputed sorcerer, and was believed to have procured the death of several people by the exercise of his art. The brother in-law of one of the murderers was said to be one of his victims. The murderers believed that they were redressing a private wrong and removing a public evil.

Seven men of the Wabuda tribe were tried at Port Moresby for murders committed in their own district. Their sept made a general onslaught on a neighbouring people, in which some sixteen heads were taken. Each convict was proved to have killed some person in this intertribal fight.

In no case was the extreme penalty of the law carried out during the year. In every case the crime was admitted by the accused, who often urged reasons to justify it.

The Central Court held fourteen sittings for criminal cases, viz.:—

In the Western Division - - - -	1
„ Central Division - - - -	4
„ Eastern Division - - - -	7
„ South-Eastern Division - - -	2

It is a noteworthy fact, and a matter for special congratulation, that no European was required to appear before the court as an accused person.

No cases of supplying to natives intoxicating liquor, arms, or ammunition came under notice, and there was only one case of unlawfully removing a native. About half of all cases that came before the lower courts were for acts of violence.

ADMINISTRATIVE VISITS OF INSPECTION.

A brief summary is given below of the more important visits of inspection made during the year.

10. On the 6th July, 1892, a tour of inspection eastward was begun at the village of Tupuseleia. It was found to be as quiet and orderly as any average European village. A man of position in the community, selected by the villagers themselves, was appointed village policeman. The Kappa-Kappa tribe were found to have made excellent use of a tract of land given to them by the Government out of an area abandoned by another tribe. They had planted over 2,000 cocoanuts. This village is only a few miles from the Government station at Rigo, and is so advanced in civilisation that the inhabitants often (whenever required) supply the Government Agent with special constables. In that capacity they conduct themselves with perfect honesty and moderation.

They, like the Tupuseleia people, were abandoning their pile houses for buildings ashore.

The Government station for the Rigo district was in good condition. Substantial quarters had been provided for the agent, and a very fine hardwood prison had been built, capable of receiving eight or ten inmates. Over 3,000 cocoanuts had been planted.

The tribes of Rigo, Sarca, and Gosoru were also visited, and found to be living as well-ordered and neighbourly communities

with, what was something unusual for them in former days, plenty of food. The Chiefs of Saroa and Gosoru are men of great intelligence, and are warm and active friends of the new order of things. Two Gosoru villages were passed through between the principal village of that tribe and Libikina, the foremost village of the Saroaki tribe. They were both thriving, industrious, and peaceful.

The Saroaki people, who appeared to have been very severely dealt with by the Protectorate, had taken their abode on the Vanigera River. They had given up raids on their neighbours and were living quietly and peacefully, and were establishing relations of amity with far inland tribes. But there was one cloud on their horizon; they had been in serious trouble for persisting in the obnoxious custom of keeping dead and decomposing human bodies in their villages. Their resistance to the Government Agent had been of a passive nature, that is, they all ran away when he went near them, but at this visit they promised that these practices should be discontinued in future. Another large village of the tribe, which had experienced the same troubles, promised like amendment.

The chief of Wabba-rabba, an enlightened man, and very friendly towards the Government, was officially installed at the large metropolis of that tribe. They are perhaps the strongest community in the district, and they seemed to think that their position and comfort had profited much from the establishment of peace and order in their country. Much fine alluvial land was passed over on the right bank of the Vanigera before the village of of Waikune was reached. This place contains the re-assembled fragments of a large tribe which was broken up and dispersed by combinations of their neighbours. They have now made a good village on their present site, and do not seem to wish to return to the old ones. Their chief is a man of unusual intelligence, who appears to be able to maintain tolerable rule among his people.

The Kalo tribe were found to be law-abiding, but somewhat lofty and reserved. They have very large cocoanut groves on the lower half-dozen miles of the Vanigera River, which makes them wealthy and independent. Their progress in religious matters, it was clear, had not kept pace with their political and social advancement. This tribe and the next visited, that of Kerepunu, have, from time immemorial, had market meetings at certain regular intervals, for the exchange of fish for vegetables. These fell frequently on Sunday; but they are now beginning to show a tendency to confine their marketing to the other six days of the week.

All the coast villages of the Aroma District were inspected from Paraman to Billeruppu. They were all peaceful and comfortable. They had made peace with the surrounding tribes, who had been their hereditary enemies, and appeared well disposed towards the Government. The opinion was formed that if certain villages assumed at any time a hostile attitude towards the Government, it would be possible to keep the others detached from

them. They were beginning to make copra for the trade, and were extending their own bartering operations along the coast among other tribes.

11. On the 21st July, 1892, the Government station at Samarai was inspected, and found to be in good order under the supervision of Mr. Moreton. The whole island had been planted in cocoanuts some time before, and the plants had been well attended to, and looked thriving. A cocoanut plantation, in connection with the station, had also been commenced on the mainland. Mr. Moreton had dealt with all known cases of crime in the district—work he had found much in arrear.

A sitting of the Central Court was held at Samarai on the 22nd. The most important case dealt with was one in which certain natives were charged with the murder of a European trader, a foreigner. It appeared that this man had, without any provocation, shot a native of Goodenough Island. To keep beyond reach of the magistrate he was leading a sort of outlaw life, keeping well clear of Samarai. He had some nine natives on board, who, believing that they were being carried away from their own country, murdered him.

Herr Rose, Landeshauptman of Kaiser Wilhelmsland, had courteously intimated to the Government of the Possession that a certain European trader from British New Guinea had been murdered inside the German jurisdiction, on the north-east coast of the mainland. As the man reported to have been killed was known to be alive, and as there had been some reason to believe that the trader killed by those tried at Samarai had met his fate far inside the British jurisdiction, it was not ascertained until the case came before the Central Court that it was the one that had been reported to Herr Rose. The prisoners had to be discharged, as there was no jurisdiction in the Court to try them. Eight of the nine men on board with the victim had been pursued and arrested in different places at immense trouble and some expense. As, however, they had undergone much hardship, and some of them considerable terms of imprisonment, they did not altogether escape punishment. The result of the case was intimated to the Government of Kaiser Wilhelmsland, but it was the opinion of each Government that nothing further could be done in the matter.

It was found on a visit to the island of Tubetube that a substantial house was being built there for a European minister of the Wesleyan Church. The Rev. Messrs. Watson and Field spoke favourably of the intelligence of the natives, and of their willingness to assist them in building operations.

The island of Pannieti was called at a day or two later. The Rev. Mr. Fellows had already got much influence over the natives there; but they were unsettled because there was still at large a member of their tribe that had committed a murder some time before. A man of some influence was appointed chief of the

island, and the people were invited to look about for a suitable person to be made policeman for the island.

At this and the neighbouring small islands the people have a decided tendency to neglect cultivation by spending their time sailing about in their canoes.

Two villages were visited on the south coast of Misima (St. Aignan) at which teachers of the Wesleyan Mission were successfully establishing themselves. They had not been there long enough to enable an opinion to be formed as to the influence they might exert on those backward tribes; but undoubtedly it will require great tact and patience to effect much on that island. It appeared that intertribal war had practically been put an end to on Misima. There were about thirty diggers on the island. By employing natives to asssist them in their very laborious toil, they were able to make a living, but probably only very small profits.

A few days later, the murderer at large on Pannieti was, by the aid of some members of that tribe, made prisoner.

The island of Nivani, in the same neighbourhood, was, after careful examination, selected as a site for the headquarters of the Resident Magistrate of the South-eastern Division.

At Griffin Point, Tagula (Sudest), it was reported that there were about thirty diggers on the island. It seemed to be no easy matter for them to make a living, even with very hard work. Some half-dozen of them had returned from Roua or Yela (Rossel Island), where they had failed to find payable gold.

Some time before this a foreign trader had been murdered by a number of natives on the south side of Yela, who had conspired together for that purpose. All coast tribes were visited from Yongga Bay, on the north of Yela, to Tama, on the south of the island, where the crime had been committed. All were made friendly, and several lent very useful assistance to the Government. Some arrests were made at Tama, and a small party was left to secure two or three ringleaders that were concealed in the mountains; in this they succeeded. The whole of the villages on the coast of the island, except a stretch of some half-dozen miles, were examined. The people were, without exception, found to be harmless and friendly, but very shy. Practically the whole island is covered by dense forest. The population is scanty, living in small villages of a few houses each.

The Yela language is difficult to learn, and by no means easy to write. The people have lived in the strictest seclusion, never intermarrying with, or visiting the tribes on other islands.

12. On the 16th August a visit was begun to the D'Entrecasteaux and neighbouring groups of Islands.

It was intended to hold a sitting of the Central Court at Bakera, on the west side of Duau Island, but this could not be carried out on account of boisterous weather and the absence of witnesses.

At Dobu there had been erected a fine, large, substantial church, built by the natives, as far as they could assist in such

work, without payment. It is capable of accommodating 500 people. The native teachers were establishing themselves, without any trouble, among the different tribes. Visits were made to some obstreperous tribes that had tried to bully those that were coming under missionary influence. Some inland villages had threatened to defy the Government, but they had no heart to attempt that when the pinch came. The most influential man in the Boio district of Fergusson was formally installed as chief; and the most important native of Dobu was appointed chief of that place. Two natives were made local policemen for Dobu.

Nearly all the villages on or near Dawson's Strait were called at. The inhabitants were evidently all settling down fast into a quiet and peaceful state, largely owing to the influence of the Wesleyan mission among them. Their chief trouble arose from the dread of sorcery.

A detachment of constabulary was landed at Kiletu, on the east of Fergusson, because it had been reported at Dobu that a murder had been committed there. The force met with a friendly reception, and it was found that the report was untrue. The constabulary also went to Murua, and remained some days among the principal tribes there, but were not successful in arresting a native accused of participating in a murder two or three years ago.

The condition of the Nada Islands was found to be satisfactory. By careful observations made at each end of Kiriwina Island its length was found to be about twenty-four geographical miles. A call was made at each of the villages on Vakuta Island. The principal village has the same name, and is of unusually large size. The people appeared to be perfectly peaceful and very friendly, and to give more than ordinary obedience to their chief. Food was very abundant. The populous Kiriwina villages of Sinaketa and Oburaka warmly welcomed the party. These people have probably the best fishing ground in the Possession, and are extremely active and industrious in their habits. The great tribe of Kavatari was seen to be living quietly and at peace with its neighbours. The members of this tribe are exceedingly keen traders. A stay of some days was made in the neighbourhood of Kaibola, near the north end of Kiriwina Island. All the villages were inspected, and an official visit was received at Kaibola from the great chief of the group. His family claim to be the only chiefly stock, and declare that all others are subject to them. This claim is admitted both in theory and in practice on Kiriwina and on all the neighbouring islands. The opinion was formed, after seeing a good deal of the interior of the islands, that, from the point of view of fertility of soil, Kiriwina and Kaileuna are the gardens of the Possession; the soil consists of a thin layer of chocolate-coloured earth on coral limestone, which, with a large rainfall, is extremely productive.

Very good anchorage for ships was found in the strait between the two large islands of the group (Kiriwina and Kaileuna).

On the 27th, there was an opportunity of seeing the Dobu congregation at Sunday service in their principal church. An

arrest made by the constabulary and Doba police during the night had alarmed the people, but, in spite of that, from 250 to 300 were present. The behaviour of the natives was, in every respect, most exemplary. It was found that Mrs. Bromilow and the two young lady lay sisters were doing valuable work. A review of the labours of the mission over the whole district showed clearly that the Fijian teachers are better suited than any others for dealing with the Papuans, as they are very successful in gaining the confidence, respect, and affection of this people.

The Anglican mission of Wedau, on the mainland, was found to be making some progress, but it was very short handed.

The constabulary were landed at the Radawa villages in Goodenough Bay, but were not successful in securing certain persons accused of assault or murder committed there.

Between Radawa and the head of the bay there were only two small native settlements, and the land is steep and unfit for cultivation near the sea. At the upper end of the bay, on its north-east side, there are many villages in a district called Paiwa. Darkness and bad weather obliged a small and weak party, with an undermanned boat, to remain there during the night. The natives, though they invited the party to land, were thievish and thought of murdering their guests, and were with some difficulty kept under control.

A large force landed next day to demand restitution of the stolen goods, and was vigorously attacked when the leading man of the place was arrested. In the fight that ensued several natives were killed and wounded, but the chief was secured, taken away, and brought to trial.

13. On the 8th October, a tour of inspection westward from Port Moresby was begun. The first call was a compulsory one made at Boera, less than half a score of miles from Port Moresby, in consequence of the steamer grounding on a shoal and having to remain there till high water. At a public meeting held in the village, it was decided by the natives that they should build a substantial, creditable church for themselves. All was found satisfactory at Ravao (Yule Island) and Delena.

A visit was paid to Bioto. At this place the Sacred Heart mission was formerly represented by a lay brother, but no member of any mission has lived there for some time now.

The people of Rapa and Akabara received the party kindly and hospitably, and seemed to be living in profound peace, because, as the chief said, "they were all afraid to fight."

The Mohu tribe were uneasy, because they had been to some extent involved in intertribal disturbances which were not yet of remote date; they also shared the view of the father of the Sacred Heart mission stationed there, that they should be allowed to bury their dead in their dwelling-houses, and they had therefore been disobeying the Burial Regulation; one of them had also recently threatened the father with violence. The heads

of families were remonstrated with, and the opinion was formed that the Mohu difficulties would disappear before quiet firmness on the part of the Government.

There was at first some misgiving shown by the people of Babiko. A lay brother of the Sacred Heart mission is stationed there—a most exemplary, industrious, hard-working, kindly man, one of those persons that live oblivious of self, and solely for the good of others. Some of the men of the Babiko had broken into his house and stolen from him. He wished them to be warned against such things in future. They declared they would never steal any more, and were, on the intercession of the brother, let off with an admonition. He was building good houses, was planting cocoanuts, and had made, and was using, a horse track to Mohu.

The Yeku village was quiet and orderly, making progress in building and settlement under the teaching of the genial lay brother stationed there. Some of the people seemed to still retain a longing for their old village, where most of the cocoanut trees are. The new village is conveniently placed on the left bank of the Angabunga River, and was built on the re-settlement of the tribe after their attack on the Inawabui. The chief of Eboa sent his son and a retinue to Yeku, to pay his official duty there.

A party starting from Yeku went first to the two old villages of Inawaia and thence to Inawabui. The former tribe, assisted by the Ebba people, had some time before this attacked Inawabui, killed several people, and been punished by the Government, the war chief of the tribe, and the chief's son, with others, having been captured and awarded long terms of imprisonment. The Inawaia people did not show distrust or alarm, but wished to join the party proceeding to Inawabui. The latter people were hospitable to the first arrivals of the party, but they could not muster up sufficient confidence to wait in their village to receive the Inawaia men, but, taking up their spears, most of them dispersed into the bush. After the greater part of the visitors had been sent away, the principal man and other leading personages came to the village and discussed the situation. They declared they were not distrustful of the Government, but were alarmed by the presence of so many men from Inawaia. Both tribes asserted that they wished for peace. There seemed to be good grounds for believing that there might be no further collision between the two tribes.

The village of Inawa, some members of which had formerly been punished for robbery of mission property, and for offering resistance to the Government Agent of the district, was found to be quiet and peaceful.

Official visits were made at the Government station by all the principal chiefs of the district, except from one tribe, which had some little time previously threatened to attack another, because a girl of the former had made a runaway match with a man of the latter.

A detachment of the constabulary was quartered for some days in the village of the would-be aggressors. All other tribes were living in harmony.

A short visit to Inawi made it clear that the excellent missionary there, the Rev. Father Vitali, had made a very good commencement. Unfortunately the Angabunga River had been greatly flooded and the Inawi lands had been some time under water, which made fever prevalent. One of the sisters stationed there had died, and the father and the lay brother had suffered much. Still they had put up good buildings, including a church that could accommodate 400 to 500 people. The Government Station was in good order; a large number of imported economic plants were doing well.

On the 12th October a halt was made at the village of Pinapaka. All available land near this village has been planted with cocoanuts but there is a scarcity of land for ordinary cultivation. The people have had among them a persevering, patient lay brother of the Sacred Heart mission.

The populous villages of Maiva were found to be fast becoming a settled and orderly community. Two bodies had, however, been buried in the villages, contrary to the Burial Regulation; but these were speedily removed, and interred in the cemetery before the matter had been reported officially. Sunday was spent there. The four teachers of the London Missionary Society, who work there, preached to full churches, and seemed to have a good hold on the people. Sunday was strictly observed by all.

The principal chief and many men came from Kivori to Maiva to make an official call. They also had disobeyed the Burial Regulation, but speedily remedied the matter, as had been done at Maiva. In no other respect did these tribes appear to have offended against any law.

There was some friction between Kivori and Waikupa, the first tribe west of it, because the daughter of the chief of the former had eloped with a Waikupa man. This latter village was visited by a detachment of constabulary, but there was nothing for them to do there.

All was quiet and satisfactory at Yokea, a station of the London Missionary Society. The tribes that are under the tuition of this mission from Maiva and Yokea were manifesting very considerable trading activity in sandalwood and copra.

14. The Biaru River (Coombes of the charts) was ascended for two days in a whale-boat. The first two miles lie through mangroves, then its course traverses flat alluvial lands with grass or sparse forests. The village of Apanaipi is on its right bank, about fourteen miles from its mouth, and consists of fifteen houses. The inhabitants were all occupied in obtaining sandalwood. It is a sort of half-way-house between Mekeo and Freshwater Bay, frequented by the natives of each.

The river is suitable for transport as far as Apanaipi. The ascent of the Biaru was continued for about a dozen miles beyond

Apanaipi. It takes a southward trend, and the banks become lower and swampy. The chief men of the tribe of Aipea, who live not far from the river, about a score of miles from its mouth, came to express gratitude for the protection the name of the Government had been to them in stopping their extermination by large neighbouring tribes.

Several years' work of the London Missionary Society have greatly changed the habits of the Lese tribe. Lese is a large village on the coast, and was found to be progressing satisfactorily.

15. It had been reported to the Government that two men of the Toaripi tribe had killed a small boy for the sole object of taking a human life. A strong detachment of constabulary was sent there to arrest the murderers. This was effected without any trouble, by the co-operation of a chief that owes his training and enlightenment entirely to the Rev. James Chalmers. The lands of Toaripi are very low, but the people are unusually industrious and persevering in contending with the water, which is always threatening to submerge their gardens.

At Toaripi it was said that a murder had been committed at Karama, on the other side of Freshwater Bay, and that the tribes of that place meant to defy the Government. There are four large villages there, but the murder was of the ordinary retaliatory type, and the homicide was arrested, and removed without any serious disturbance, although this was the first official visit to the place.

A brief glance at the work done by the London Missionary Society from Maiva to Carama was considered to reflect the greatest credit on the Rev. James Chalmers. Not only had that gentleman effected an incalculable amount of good through religious teaching, but he had also shown the people that they must respect and obey the Government and laws of the Queen.

16. In the end of February, two distinguished officers in the service of Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands—Resident Bensbach, of Ternate, and Captain J. Van Afferden, met certain of the principal officers of the Possession, at Thursday Island, to proceed to the British-Dutch boundary in New Guinea, to look for some natural workable boundary between the two territories which could be substituted for the 141st degree of east longitude. The need for this arose from the periodical harrying invasions of the British coast-line by certain tribes having their homes in Dutch New Guinea. After examining the ground, it was mutually agreed to recommend the respective Governments to adopt the mouth of a freshwater river called "The Bensbach," as the boundary on the coast. Its approximate position where it debouches, is 141° 1′ 48″ east longitude, and 9° 7′ 35″ south latitude. The proposed boundary proceeds on that longitude to the Fly River, then along that river upwards till it cuts the 141st degree of east longitude, and along that degree of longitude to the point where the British, Dutch, and German boundaries meet on the 5th degree of south latitude.

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17. In consequence of a report of very serious disturbances, on what seemed good authority, a visit was paid in March to Wabuda Island, in the northern half of the Fly estuary. The Wabuda tribe had attacked, first one and then another neighbouring tribe, and had secured a large number of human heads for dedicatory purposes in connection with new canoes or a new building. The Kiwai chiefs volunteered to assist by their presence and counsel. Two of them were taken as interpreters. It was ascertained soon after reaching Wabuda that many of the warriors were absent on a neighbouring island fishing and hunting. Two or three arrests were made at the two Wabuda villages; and all canoes were secured, so that the absent men could not be communicated with during the night. Next day a number of men were arrested by intercepting the canoes as they crossed from Umudu to Wabuda. No resistance was offered, although they were all heavily armed. The war chief of the tribe was not in the flotilla; he had been wounded in the last inter-tribal fight, and had been left on the island of Umudu, where he was arrested next morning by the constabulary. Sixteen men in all were secured, but it was found that the man that ranked next to the war chief in mischief was not there, but had gone away to some other island on a visit. Before the party reached Kiwai Island on the homeward journey, the Kiwai local policemen had arrested this man, and he was in due course handed over to the Government officers.

At a meeting held with the Wabuda tribe after the arrest were made, the whole situation was discussed, and the tribe was practically settled. They even came out to the "Albatross" with food and little things for their friends among the prisoners.

The whole undertaking was, without any bloodshed, very satisfactory in its results.

VISIT OF INSPECTION TO THE GULF OF PAPUA, AND EXPLORATION OF THE RIVERS FLOWING THEREINTO.

18. On the 9th January an inspection of the Lakekamu River was begun where it enters the sea at Toaripi. Within the first four miles two side creeks lead from the Lakekamu to Mobiabi and the Tauri River. The first dozen miles pass through many sago groves, then the ground gradually rises, producing a mixture of sago, padanus, and mangrove trees, then bread-fruit, paper-bark, and general forest. The lower reaches belong to Toaripi; all the upper portion, as far as traversed, is claimed by Mobiabi; but there are no permanent settlements on the river after leaving Toaripi.

After the first score of miles is passed, there are large areas of fine deep alluvial soil, covered by great forest trees. At two score of miles low wooded hills are reached. At nearly fifty miles from the sea the river divides into two nearly equal branches. From

the sea to this junction there would apparently never be less than one fathom of water in the river channel. There is a large quantity of fine land fit for settlement on this river—land at present unoccupied—well adapted for growing sugar-cane, corn, tea, and coffee.

19. The party passed by boat through winding creeks from the Lakekamu to the Mapu River, and by the latter to Mobiabi village on the Tauri River. The greater portion of the country within four or five miles of the sea is mangrove swamp. There are some small native settlements on the Mapu; there are many people at Mobiabi.

The Tauri, for about a dozen miles, is about 100 yards wide, and from one to two fathoms deep. Good land begins about Mobiabi, but it is not more than a foot or two above high-water mark; it is covered by cocoanut, sago, and bread-fruit trees, mixed with gardens and grass patches, with paper-bark trees in the distance. At about a score of miles there is much good planting land, from one to three yards high, some of it covered by old forests of large trees. The upper portions of the river are visited only occasionally by the Mabiabi tribe for fishing and hunting; they have a few small gardens there also, but there is no permanent occupation. There would be a considerable area of good land available for European settlement on the Tauri. It has not much sago on its course in comparison to what was seen on the Lakekamu.

20. On the 22nd a visit was made to Karama. The people were peaceful and kind, but showed some suspicion when the moment of departure came. This mistrust was not shared by the chief, who wished to accompany the party westward. The creek there was ascended for about four miles. It traverses excellent garden land until it reaches the hills. Shortly before this the South Sea Island teacher stationed here had died at his post.

The several villages near the sea between Karama and Kerema were all friendly disposed, but there was not time to visit them all. There is no useful unoccupied land on the coast there.

A short halt was made at the village of Ipisi, on the east side of Kerema Bay. The community is a poor one, and is in every way rather backward. The people are timid but friendly. The lagoon and inlets behind Ipisi were examined. There are two villages behind Ipisi belonging to the same tribe. The lagoon is surrounded by low wooded hills on all sides save that next the sea.

A teacher of the London Missionary Society nad well established himself in Kerema by three years' work. He lives in the Uaripi village. The population of Kerema may be about 1,000, of whom about a score attend church, but the chief is not among the number. They complained of acts of hostility by an inland tribe called Opao. Kerema is wealthy and independent, having permanent riches in sago and cocoanuts. The second large village of the community was also visited. They seemed to be a kindly,

peacefully-disposed people; they closely resemble the Karama and Toaripi tribes.

Several miles of unoccupied sea frontage, fit for growing cocoanut trees, were seen in the long bay that lies east of the Bailala River.

21. On the 22nd January the mouth of the Bailala was reached. There are two large villages there, the inhabitants of which are numerous and formerly were very wild, but they have been much influenced by the teaching af the London Missionary Society.

This river is fresh at the mouth, and there was no current up its channel during flood-tide. None of the natives had been more than twenty miles up it. There are some cocoanut groves near the mouth of the river; then it presents a mixture of mangrove, pandanus, bread-fruit, and cocoanut trees. At ten or twelve miles from the sea the whole country near the river is rich, deep alluvial soil, and practically unoccupied.

At a score of miles fine, low, heavily-wooded hills begin, apparently well suited for agricultural purposes. The first branch was a small navigable one coming in from the east, with low hills on its north, and fine alluvial land on its south, side. A tribe called Hakeko was found about fifty miles up the river. They said they counted about sixty men and four villages. They do not belong to any peculiar inland race, but are, judging from their language, houses, dress, customs, and personal appearance, a lost offshoot of the Bailala tribe. When the first surprise was over, they were peaceful, friendly, and hospitable. They said they are the only dwellers in that part of the country. They had no iron, but made some rude clay vessels. None of them were naked. They grow tobacco and smoke it.

The third score of miles of the Bailala traverses some very fine alluvial agricultural country, generally too dry for sago.

The fourth score of miles passes through low wooded hills separated by deep alluvial forest land. Hunting shelters were seen there, but no natives. At about eighty miles rapids begin in the river, and at places there is only from three to five feet of water.

The mountains of the main central range were still a score of miles distant in a straight line from where the party turned back; all country that lay between was either flat, or had at places low wooded hills.

Clearly there is much unoccupied land fit for tropical agriculture on the Bailala River. The water carriage to and from it would be excellent.

22. On the 31st January an overland journey was made from the Bailala to the coast village of Haru and thence to Orokolo. The country traversed was flat, cut up by salt water creeks, the soil sandy, growing cocoanut, sago, and fruit trees.

There is no teacher at Haru. The people were quiet, kind, and hospitable. The tribe is not a large one.

At Orokolo there has been a station of the London Missionary Society for many years. In the group of villages, all on the beach, there may be 1,500 people. The land is flat and sandy, with groves of cocoanuts for about half-a-dozen miles along the sea-shore. The people seem to live at peace among themselves and with their neighbours.

23. On the 1st February an examination was begun of the great Purari River. The mouths of this river were first discovered by the Rev. James Chalmers, but they and part of the river itself above its delta were first systematically explored and mapped by Mr. Theodore Bevan. The two most easterly mouths are the Alele and Aivei, each nearly a mile wide at the mouth, but with many sand and mud banks. The country near them is nearly all mangrove swamp. Apiope is a small village on the Aivei, the inhabitants of which are, to a very considerable extent, under the influence of the misson. They are a small swarm off the great Maipua tribe. They were found to be quiet and friendly.

A short call was made at Maipua. It is on an inlet, about half-a-mile from the sea, and must contain nearly 2,000 inhabitants. Nothing can be seen all round but mangrove swamp. There is no teacher there. Several groups were at first armed with bows and arrows, but these arms were soon laid aside. The probability is that there were among them some people that had left Apiope the night before on account of a petty theft. The attitude of the people was friendly, but somewhat reserved. The appearance of the tribe was wonderfully healthy for such an environment. They professed to be a peaceful tribe, but of course no reliance could be given to their statements in that respect.

The Aivei and Alele join about four miles from the sea and form the Purari. For the first half-dozen miles the banks are covered by mangrove only, and these at half-a-score of miles become mixed with pandanus and sago trees, but there is no real dry land for about a score of miles. At the inner end of the delta the Purari gives off the Kairu, fully thirty miles by water from the sea. There is no native occupation there. The land is all flat, and was one to two yards above the water in the river, covered by forest, with occasional sago swamps. The soil is sandy alluvial.

Just above the bifurcation the Purari is about half a-mile wide, and one fathom deep. Half-a-score of miles beyond that again the banks rise, the soil is not sandy, and the trees are larger. Low hills begin about the same place, and the land is suitable for cultivation.

At some two dozen miles above the bifurcation the river approaches the first mountain, and for a dozen miles passes along in a nearly straight north-west direction close to its base. Specimens of rock from this mountain, which is over 2,000 feet high, have been pronounced to be sandstone and calcareous sandstone. On the south side of the river are low, heavily-wooded hills, with low intervening valleys.

Some seventy-five miles from the sea there is the first considerable branch. The highest distance reached was, by the river course, about four score miles from the sea. The river there was about 300 to 400 yards broad, and at least three or four fathoms deep, but it was much swollen from rain that had fallen the previous day.

On the north side, at a distance of three or four miles, there was a rough mountain, probably 3,000 feet high, on the south side low wooded hills and rich alluvial valleys, but no native settlement.

The Barori, Arai, and Wame were all successively traversed. It may be doubted if there is any land sufficiently high for permanent European cultivation below the bifurcation of the Purari. The upper portion of the delta was probably one to two yards above the then level of the river, but it seems not improbable that it is occasionally flooded. There is much sago on the delta, but not many cocoanut trees. The greater portion of the delta is mangrove swamp.

A call was made at the village of Koropenaira and also at the Arai villages. The inhabitants are numerous and very noisy. At first, when taken by surprise, they rushed to arms, but no collision took place, and they were quite friendly. They were lively, healthy and very robust, though all round them for many miles was swamp and nearly all covered by mangroves. This part of the delta is greatly cut up by reticulating water channels, meeting and forking in all directions. A camp was formed on the sea-coast near Marikimiro Point, and communication opened with the natives of the vicinity. They said they knew Mr. Chalmers. Many of them brought food to camp for sale. They did not come armed. Their three villages on the Kaimare were visited and found to contain a very large population; they were friendly but somewhat shy and reserved in the absence of their principal chiefs. The neighbourhood of these villages is all mangrove swamp, which is cut up by a network of water channels. The people, of course, live chiefly on sago.

24. After reaching the head of Port Romilly, the party examined the Pie Creek. Its banks at the lower end are covered by mangroves; the banks soon become a little higher, and at four to five miles from its mouth they present alternate mangrove and forest. There are no inhabitants.

The Wame was then traversed to the Baroi. The country between the Baroi and Port Romilly is all swampy, covered chiefly by nipa palms and mangroves. On the Wame there is, however, the small village of Evarra, with a population of 200 or 300. The land there is high enough to grow sago, bread-fruit, taro, and bananas. This tribe resembles the Maipua people in all respects; it is a weak tribe, and, therefore, peaceful.

The Kapaina Horn of Port Romilly was next inspected. It is a salt water extension of the inlet. Sixteen or eighteen miles up it is a hundred yards wide, and is still salt water and full of jelly fish. At from ten to fifteen miles there is slightly higher land, and the mangrove is mixed with, or entirely displaced by, forest trees;

but beyond that again it becomes lower and is all swampy. The water becomes fresh at about a score of miles. A tribe called Ipikoi was met with near its head; but there was no appearance of any permanent occupation. No passage from Kapaina into the Era Inlet could be found. But a channel was met with leading from Port Romilly through the mangrove to the Aia, on which is the village of Baimuru. This tribe has all the peculiarities of those of the Purari delta, but it is not nearly so strong as some of those tribes; the people were very quiet, friendly, and hospitable, but were shy and timid at the same time.

25. Era Inlet was next examined. It has no inhabitants. Its banks, and the country for many miles inland, consist of nipa and mangrove swamp. No passage could be found from it into the Kapaina or into Port Romilly. An inlet from the west side of Era Bay was followed up about half a score of miles in search of fresh water. There it was about a dozen yards wide and still brackish. It does not seem to even get beyond the mangrove and nipa swampy ground. There is no permanent occupation on it.

A sandy beach, with a thin fringe of cocoanut trees in front of the great mangrove swamps, lies between Era Bay and Kaa, the inlet next west of Era. A number of men of the Miniao tribe were met with there. They were very shy, but quite friendly. They did not readily understand the language of Maipua, nor that of the Fly Estuary; but still it was possible to converse a little with them. Their district is all mangrove swamp with spots dry enough to grow a few cocoanut trees. They doubtless have sago swamps somewhere.

The Paia Inlet was next followed up. There is nothing save mangrove and nipa swamp on each side of it, and no visible occupation. The channel, continued from its upper end, was followed north beyond the Aird Hills some half-dozen miles. The whole country was swampy as far as this furthest point, and there the tide rose and fell eight or nine feet. At about five-and-twenty miles the water was fresh, when it began to enter between some low wooded hills. A channel from the south-east connecting with this one, north of the Aird Hills, was followed in returning; but it contained salt water and traversed only uninhabited swampy country, in which there are a great many intersecting waterways.

The country lying between Paia Inlet and Era Bay was traversed on the 17th February. That district is of the same swampy nature, there being very little land dry enough to grow even the wild bread-fruit tree. It is nearly all mangrove and nipa swamp. A large tribe was met with there. They did not understand either the Maipuan or Fly Estuary language, and even their name could not be ascertained, but they resembled the coast tribes east and west of them in other respects. They seemed very ready to use their weapons, but friendly intercourse was opened and maintained, and presents exchanged.

26. The country lying west of the Bailala River does not seem to be suited for permanent European settlement anywhere near the

coast. No doubt there is fine land some two score of miles up the Purari, but, with that exception, there is nothing west of the Bailala River that seems very inviting, while the coast navigation is treacherous on account of dirty water and sandbanks.

No high mountains were seen in the interior in this western country—probably nothing exceeding 8,000 or 9,000 feet.

A very high estimate was formed of the labours of the Rev. James Chalmers among the Gulf tribes.

27. On the 11th May a short visit of inspection was begun at Ravoa, (Yule Island). All was working quietly and satisfactorily there. The two native villages were inspected and found to be clean and comfortable. A Malay lay brother keeps school there, and had about 50 scholars. The natives had become afraid that they would be removed from the island, which did not originally belong to them, but they were reassured on that point.

Nothing required any administrative action at the villages of Rapa or Yeku.

An opportunity presented itself of seeing the demeanour of the Inawi people at church on the Sabbath. About 300 attended service. The Rev. Father Vitali has established an excellent system of order and discipline in the congregation, which is all but identical with that so successfully practised by the Rev. W. Bromilow at Dobu.

The Inawi mission has been, in the hands of Father Vitali, a very clear and decided success in every way. Unfortunately he and his fellow-workers do not enjoy good health there.

On the 15th all the chiefs above Babiko, with the exception of Yeku, arrived at the Government station to officially report themselves. There was nothing amiss to report except some village burials.

The station was in a satisfactory condition, the imported plants generally looking well.

A short halt was made at Oriropetana, where all seemed to be in good order.

The resident lay brother was building a good substantial house at Yeku, but teaching had not yet commenced.

Babiko was found to be progressing very satisfactorily under the lay brother stationed there.

The Mohu community, though the longest under mission teaching, was still the most backward in the district; but the difficulty connected with village burials seemed to be at an end.

The inhabitants of Delena, Nara, and Isiu, were too much occupied in procuring sandalwood.

A chiefess and a policeman were appointed at Nara.

The whole of the country visited seemed to be thoroughly pacified.

28. A visit paid by Mr. Kowald to the villages situated on the upper reaches of the Angabunga River, in the Mekeo Range, was of considerable importance. It was found that from an agricultural point of view the district is not of much value.

Traces of gold have always been found in the lower stretches of the river, but Mr. Kowald's party did not succeed in finding where it comes from.

29. The visits made by Mr. Lawes to the new villages by which the sphere of his duties as magistrate was extended in his Division were of much interest.* As in the case of Mr. Kowald's extension of his authority to new villages, no collision or trouble occurred with the natives. This was the more likely to arise in one of Mr. Lawes' visits, as it was made to a district from which Dr. Loria was driven away by the natives in a hostile attack made by them on his party, after some quarrel about food.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS.

Reports for the year from the four Resident Magistrates, the two Government Agents, and the Commandant were duly furnished.

30. The Resident Magistrate for the Western Division points out that many of the coast natives of the west have been for years in contact with pearl-shellers, and have contracted a strong desire for clothes. The small traders on the coast are, with one exception, too poor to be fair employers of labour. The want of regular and congenial employment for the natives is much felt, and the Resident Magistrate appear to think the young men should be allowed employment beyond the Possession. This is allowed now, if the boats they are employed on are located in this Colony. Employers can be found for them in other districts. The natural fishing grounds of the Possession have been annexed to the Colony of Queensland, and hence boats are not frequently located on the British New Guinea side. The tribes of the interior appear pacific, although suspicious, from being long hunted by the coast men; but their mutual relations are fast becoming satisfactory now. The Tugeri, from Dutch New Guinea, did not visit the coast during the year, so far as the Magistrate can judge.

The two native magistrates and the ten or twelve village policemen on the whole did their work well; the best service, however, being done by those of a village a few miles from the coast. The Fly River policemen are said to have behaved excellently and some of their chiefs also did good work. They, however, require much teaching and supervision, as their duties are entirely new to them.

There was little crime in the part of the Division that is under control; that area was extended to several new tribes during the year.

Three cases of adultery came before the Court, and the magistrate says, that, as the operation of this law is extended, great good will ensue.

* Not printed.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1892-3.

Some improvement was made in building houses in a few of the villages, in the direction of doing away with one house for a whole tribe.

There is no house or village burial in the district.

The health of the men on the station was good.

The number of natives engaged before the magistrate for service was 84.

Much extra work was caused by the transfer of the Government Station to the island of Daru, a much more suitable position, especially for shipping.

31. The Resident Magistrate for the Central Division describes the year as having been one of "plenty," one effect of which has been a difficulty in obtaining native labourers.

An inland tribe called Vea menaced some of the coast tribes in Cloudy Bay.

Some eighteen new inland villages never touched at before by Europeans were visited, some of them at elevations of 2,000 to 3,000 feet. They were suspicious but not unfriendly. Some of their country was considered to possess rich soil. It is noteworthy that cocoanut trees were seen doing well at an altitude of 3,000 feet. Certain far inland districts were found to be thickly populated.

The fact is noted that two canoes with thirty-seven men came a distance along the coast of some 200 miles to seek for work at Port Moresby. They called fearlessly at the coast villages all the way. Some arrests were made in the Gulf part of the Division for the first time, some resistance being offered at one place.

Village constables and Government chiefs have been added to during the year, and the Magistrate thinks this will be a great deterrent to crime. Certain villages now pique themselves on their record for good behaviour, and boast that none of them have been in gaol.

It is pointed out that only Kabadi, of all coast tribes in this Division, has made no progress. It will not be got under proper control until an officer can stay there for some time and appoint local policemen.

The Magistrate visited during the year 120 different villages.

The natives are often anxious to sell land they do not use, and to have settlers among them, but they sometimes refuse to sell.

The Native Magistrates' Courts he has found to work very satisfactorily.

No less than seventy permits were issued to non-Europeans to possess and use firearms in this Division.

32. The Resident Magistrate for the Eastern Division says in his report that the natives are settling down to a peaceable existence, and to recognise the power of the Government.

In remote parts that cannot be visited, inter-tribal animosities are still carried on to some extent, while many tribes that were hereditary enemies have laid aside their fighting gear for ever.

He finds superstition and witchcraft the most difficult things to deal with.

Certain chiefs come to Samarai to report regularly on their districts.

A great many natives came to Samarai for work during the year, as many as one hundred and twenty being sometimes employed in swamp-filling, clearing land, &c. The women work best.

A small amount of food was grown on the island, but most of what was required was purchased.

It was found to be cheaper to buy sago from the natives than to employ them to make it on Samarai.

The lugger for the Division has turned out well, but is found to be too small for the work.

33. The Resident Magistrate for the South-eastern Division (Louisiades) reports that the natives of Misima still remained distrustful and timid, requiring frequent visits. The health of the men on the station was sometimes good, at other times it was feverish.

They cleared and planted several acres of land at Nivani, the new Government station for the Division, and put in some 250 cocoa-nut plants. The Magistrate unfortunately could not obtain native labour. He complains that the natives neglect their own gardens. A number of people died of influenza during the year. He regrets the transfer of the Rev. S. B. Fellows from Pannieti to another station.

Mining matters were quiet. No payable reef has been struck. The relations between the diggers and the natives have been good; thieving by the latter has been less prevalent; but much temptation is put in their way. The health of the diggers was fairly good.

34. The Government Agent for Mekeo, states that the behaviour of the natives was satisfactory during the year, all living at peace. There were two murders in the district, both "woman" cases. Most of the tribes have become reconciled to each other, and those that have not done so are afraid to break the peace. Many of them were at work procuring sandalwood. The relations between natives and traders have been uniformly amicable. Two tribes have purchased sailing boats. Inter-tribal communication has been greatly extended. Many of them are anxious to receive new plants and seeds.

Some of them begin to build better houses on the half European model they have seen at the Government station.

Certain of the inland chiefs that had never seen the sea before paid a visit to Port Moresby.

One homicide escaped to the mountains and was not captured.

The Burial Regulation is now generally complied with, and cases of village burial are now not common; but in the early part of the year they gave much trouble.

The health of those employed at the station was satisfactory.

35. The Government Agent for Rigo notes the greatly improved moral condition of the natives of his district during the year.

The sphere of influence was extended, and the Government work is becoming better understood.

Natives begin to look to the Government for advice on all matters.

The influence of the chief recognised by Government is growing.

There was only one case of murder in the district during the year; adultery and infanticide are becoming rare.

There is difficulty in enforcing the Burial Regulation in some of the inland villages, but still great progress has been made in that direction.

The year was remarkable for visits between tribes formerly enemies or strangers and unknown to each other.

Food was plentiful. A number of people died of epidemic pleurisy—probably influenza.

A great many cases not included in the Court returns were settled out of Court.

The health of the people at the station was good.

36. The Commandant, in his Report, only refers to the last five months of the year. He enumerates the villages he visited—56 in all; the force in that period arrested 30 persons.

Most of the old men left the force towards the end of the year, and their place was taken by recruits.

The health of the men was good.

NATIVE HABITS AND CUSTOMS.

37. Ever since the declaration of Sovereignty, as much attention as possible has been given to the peculiar usages, customs, and habits of the natives.

It has been felt that no man, or body of men, can rule justly and wisely a people with whose customs, usages, and inner life they are unacquainted.

In legislation and in executive administration it is imperative that, in a country such as this is, with a mere handful of Europeans and a numerous savage and semi-savage population, the officers of the Government should not only become acquainted with the hereditary and traditional customs of the natives, but that they should also know their superstitions, their aims, their inter-tribal family and domestic polity, and even their prejudices.

These subjects have been pressed upon the attention of officers, not in the interests of scientific anthropology, but to secure the broad basis on which a just and suitable executive government can be established and carried on.

The difficulties in the way are great, and such as could hardly be appreciated by one not tried by them.

A certain number of men regard such work as mere dilettanteism, and, not seeing its importance, do not lend it enthusiasm, and therefore do not succeed.

One requires considerable knowledge of natives to be able to make a commencement even; and in this country there are, of necessity, comparatively many changes in the *personnel* of officers.

It is felt by each officer that his contribution to this subject for the present Report is merely fragmentary. Much of what is now stated is advanced with reserve, and may be subject to correction as knowledge becomes extended.

It is the more necessary that this should be pointed out, because, although there is a general line of custom running through the actions of natives here, still they are such great opportunists, that there are few natives that would not for some tempting gain to themselves, act contrary to custom and according to the demands of their own personal advantage.

38. Mr. Hely, Resident Magistrate for the Western Division, says that in all marriages the woman takes the initiative. She sends for the man to visit her. These are love marriages and do not cause trouble to the authorities; but very frequently such a marriage leads to another in which the sister-in-law of the bride is given in marriage in exchange, whatever may be her inclination; this is a form of oppression that will cause some strife in future.

Polygamy is common. It is based seldom on sensuality, but generally on the theory that the more wives a man has the more comfortable he will be. The custom is universal in the Possession. There is so far no legal bar to it, and the usage seems inclined to disappear before missionary influence, but it may before long be prudent to deal with it by a Native Regulation to prevent future polygamous unions, while recognizing accomplished facts.

In that district the widow enjoys a much better position than is generally the case. In too many districts they are the chattels of the brother-in-law, or even of a step-child, and they have but too much cause to lament the death of their husbands. But they begin, like other women, to find out that if oppressed they can appeal to a Government officer.

Infidelity on the part of the wife was punished by the murder of the adulterer. That may perhaps be considered a general natural usage. Here it is being combated by a Native Regulation, under which both parties may be punished for adultery by imprisonment.

There has been no cannibalism to contend with in the west, nor, it may be said, elsewhere. No district is known to the

Government in which it was customary to eat human flesh. The skeletons of dead relatives are at times kept in the villages; the skulls of enemies are preserved as trophies of valour; occasionally, very rarely, the body of an enemy is cooked and partially eaten in bravado, and now and then a depraved or mad woman digs into a grave and eats a morsel of decomposing human flesh; but cannibal feasts, or people that always, or frequently, eat human flesh—like the historical cannibals of the Pacific—have not been met with here.

No special law has been passed dealing with skull trophies. Sometimes they are burned by the natives voluntarily, and others are broken up by officers. They are fast disappearing, but it is very surprising how many are kept in reserve to replace those destroyed.

Witchcraft causes as great trouble in the west as elsewhere. All over it has the same general features; a man prepares a small parcel of rubbish, which contains, if it is got ready for some specific case, a hair or something belonging to the individual that is to suffer. This little collection of garbage then has diabolical powers, and alarms people, sometimes sickening, and even killing them, by fear. A Native Regulation has been passed, under which the performer can be imprisoned. The fetish has been brought and delivered up voluntarily at several places.

39. The Resident Magistrate for the Eastern Division reports* that children are sometimes betrothed, and that these in most cases marry; but generally they make love matches, the husband giving some payment to the girl's father. Cases of oppression or compulsion in marriage are rare in the district. At Banarua, a dowry is given by the wife's father, but it is probably only a return present.

At Saraba the widow is the slave of the brother-in-law. At Naria the widow is not allowed to marry; but widows may do so at Banarua.

Polygamy is allowed, subject to the sanction of existing previous wives; this consent is seldom refused, as wives understand that their labour is lightened by dividing it.

40. The Resident Magistrate for the South-eastern Division (Louisiades) describes the burial of the dead, which seems to not be made in the district near the station in or near the house of the deceased. In some parts of the Division, however, it is very different; the dead body, or, in some tribes, only the head, is kept in the house in a decomposing condition, and the skull is sometimes preserved and kept in the house after it is cleaned. There will be some trouble over house burials on Yela (Rossel Island). There seems to be nothing to render marriage oppressive to the woman, as all appear to be matches of inclination; but the husband has to render too

* Not printed.

many services to the father-in-law, who never ceases to receive payment for his daughter.

From end to end of the Possession it is the general rule that the father receives payment for his daughter from her husband.

It has been said that infanticide was very common in this country; children born out of wedlock were undoubtedly often killed; but a legitimate daughter was, and is, a source of wealth—a valuable possession—which an avaricious Papuan would not readily destroy.

41. The Government Agent for Mekeo says that children are occasionally betrothed before birth, but betrothal usually takes place at puberty. The betrothed young man is a loafer until married. Obtaining a woman in marriage is usually synonymous with the ability to pay the father for the girl. A runaway marriage was not uncommon there, and used to be a frequent cause of war; it still creates much trouble if the woman is not well paid for afterwards. It has not been thought desirable to interfere with this custom of payment. Some tribes are indignant when the word "payment" is used in this connection, declaring vehemently that it is a present—a free gift and not a price.

Polygamy is practised as far as the man may be able to pay for additional wives.

Widows may marry again. Sorcerers cause trouble, and not infrequently oppress and torment their victims. The people generally would gladly see them put down, but fear keeps them from reporting their threats and swindles.

In that district the dead were buried in or near the house of the deceased; this practice probably came of affection. In dealing with this matter, effort has been made to respect the same sentiment by encouraging and directing the tribes to fence and ornament the cemeteries selected for them; some have done so, others will follow their example.

In and near to this district the period of probation for admission to manhood has one vexatious peculiarity; the probationer lives by the chase, or by his wits; by the former he would have but scanty fare, but he supplements it by stealing This requires no special legislation, but it is difficult to put an end to, because all men remember that they went through the same trial, and they, therefore, sympathise with the thief, and do not report his misappropriations. But this reverence for the past is doomed to disappear before the avariciousness of the Papuan.

The giving of feasts has been found to greatly interfere with work of all kinds in the Central Division. If food is abundant, that fact alone suggests a feast. Feasts are also made in connection with all the notable occurrences in the routine of ordinary life. It is extremely difficult to see how this evil, for it is becoming one, can be remedied.

42. Prohibition by the Taboo appears to be known in some form or other all over the Possession. In the Pacific it could be used, and has indeed in actual practice become of the very utmost

importance, for political purposes. Unfortunately it is not a powerful instrument anywhere in this country. Here it has never been grounded on any deep religious sentiment, and could not be enforced by any absolute, powerful chief; consequently it has never taken deep root. So far as is known at present it is used and respected only in order to store up food for a coming feast. It is most frequently applied to cocoanut and betelnut trees, but not exclusively so.

Men masked and disguised in fantastic dresses perambulate the village and the trees to be prohibited. In some places the prohibition is announced by a syren of wood on a string wielded by a fishing rod. It probably never applies to more than the products of one family or group of connected families. From the Fly River to the far east, branches, usually of sago, are tied on flat on the prohibited trees. Sometimes strings are put round gardens; branches are tied into the door of a house that is not to be entered, or are laid across a road that is not to be traversed. To lend some restraining influence to it, the mystery of disguise is given to those imposing it.

If natives are required to pay taxes in kind here, it will be very useful to possess a full knowledge of the working of the Taboo; at present very little is known about it.

43. The Government Agent for the Rigo District shows that young people are sometimes made to marry there contrary to their inclination. The wife is paid for.

In all districts it seems to be the rule that a couple cohabit before marriage.

The stage has hardly been reached yet when it will have to be considered whether a law should be passed to make such intercourse penal, as has been done with several places in the Pacific, in America, and elsewhere. It is a question on which all the mission bodies should be heard.

A study of the customs connected with burial in the Rigo district will show very clearly the double grounds on which a Native Regulation was passed to compel cemetery interment. It was needed for simple sanitary reasons; and it was required to stop the superstitious and malicious murder of perfectly innocent people. The dead bodies in that district were exposed on platforms in the village till so far decomposed that the epidermis peeled off readily, and indicated by the form and manner of exfoliation the person that had procuredor caused the death of the deceased.

NATIVE LAND TENURE.

44. This subject was felt to be so important that a special study has been made of it, and reports* have been prepared on a fixed plan. These cover fourteen tribes, but there are reports* from both Mr. Cameron and Mr. Hely on the Turi Turi and Mawatta septs. The various tenures, so far as they have been ascertained, have been duly studied.

* Not printed.

The period for which the communities have been in occupation of their present tribal lands varies greatly. Cases are known to the Government where tribal occupation dates back only from six to fifteen years. Some can count a certain number of generations—for example, four at Aroma and at Kemaria, ten at Kamale, and from time immemorial at Port Moresby, Pannieti, and Sariba.

It will be seen that individual ownership is everywhere recognised, and that lands are not allotted either annually or otherwise. In fact, there does not exist machinery or authority that could periodically apportion land, or that could enforce adhesion to any distribution. Speaking generally, a certain area of country, as a rule tolerably well defined, but as to its boundaries frequently disputed, is regarded as being the lands of a tribe; a member of the tribe does not trespass on the land that has been brought into use by another member of the same tribe; but any person of the tribe may take up and use unoccupied land. It is regarded as his land, at least for the time being, in virtue of occupation. Possession is usually held by the Papuan to be very nearly ten-tenths of the law.

It would appear that the land cannot pass out of the tribe by sale, gift, or inheritance.

The different adult members of one family often hold their lands in immediate proximity, and thus sometimes plant and fence in common; but the regular practice is, that absolute personal freedom is retained by the individual, and he clears, fences, and plants by himself. Even when they do fence in common, they generally cultivate individually.

It will be noticed that certain tribes have no common lands. These are surrounded by other tribes, so that the tribal area has a rigid boundary, while all land inside it has already been taken up by individuals.

45. There is great diversity as to the way land descends, thus:—

At Port Moresby all the land of the father and mother descends to the eldest child, whether male or female.

In the Rigo district it passes to the eldest son, if not arranged otherwise by the father, who may, however, divide it as he chooses.

At Sariba and Banarua it goes to brothers first.

At Nada the father's property goes back to his family; that of the mother goes to the children of the marriage, and they belong to the mother and to her tribe. Thus the father raises up children for the woman and her tribe, and not for his own tribe.

At Kabadi and other places the land seems to pass to the nephew, the son getting no share of it unless the nephew gives him some. Generally the heir does provide for the other members of the family.

About Dobu the husband's land becomes the property of his sister's children, while the wife's falls to her maternal uncles.

In some tribes women cannot hold land; in others they hold it evenly with men.

46. It is quite clear that they occasionally buy and sell land. The alienation of land is, therefore, not quite a new idea to them. They frequently lend land to be used for garden purposes, or even for crops like those of cocoanuts, which may endure for generations. They lease land in some tribes, generally for the payment of a royalty on the crop.

Very frequently the land belongs to one man and the trees on it to another, a matter that has carefully to be kept in sight in buying land from natives.

The subdivision of land is carried to an extent almost unknown elsewhere; thirty or forty people may appear as owners of a patch of two or three acres near a large village.

As a rule, game may be hunted by a member of the tribe anywhere on the tribal land, but others do not hunt there without the permission of the tribe to which the land belongs.

A person marrying out of one tribe into another does not transfer land from the one community to the other.

There is common tribal property in wild, but not in any domestic, animals.

There is considerable variation as to house sites.

In the west, where several hundred people may live in one house, the site usually belongs to one man, but the house, built by the community, belongs to them. In the Central District there is a tendency to grouping into "quarters," one for each set of related families, and each family head and householder has his own house site in the proper quarter.

It sometimes is found that all the land on which a village is built belongs to one man. In those cases the village is generally a comparatively young one; by right of occupation, and by the extinction of the original owner or owners, the different sites gradually become individual or family property.

NATIVE DIALECTS.

47. Four different vocabularies* of native dialects have been compiled during the year and one printed.

The Rev. S. B. Fellows has prepared an extremely interesting and instructive grammar and vocabulary of the Pannieti language. The grammar is so complete as to be almost exhaustive. It will be found well worthy of careful study as a point of departure for further work of the same kind in the east end of the Possession.

The Rev. Copland King supplies a wealthy vocabulary, with interesting grammatical notes, of the language spoken at Wedau, Wamira and Jiwari, on the north-east coast of the Colony.

* Not printed here.

Mr. Lawes, Secretary for Native Affairs, has compiled a vocabulary of the language spoken on the coast in the east end of the Gulf of Papua, from Kerema to Orokolo.

The same officer has also drawn up a small but practically sufficient vocabulary of the language of the Aroma—in their own language, Galoma—tribes, spoken from Vererupu to Paramana Point.

48. The great difficulty of language is gradually becoming less. In the east end of the Possession, the digger and the trader are propagating "pigeon" English. The vocabulary is not always eclectic, but it is very useful. It is not yet clear what may become the eastern native literary language. Probably the missions have not yet decided how far they will use or teach English there. The Sacred Heart mission propose to take a few young natives from the Mekeo district to Thursday Island, that they may learn English there. The London Missionary Society have successfully taught English to some of their pupils. One of them has been appointed a cadet in the office of the Treasurer. The constabulary do more than any other body to enable strange natives to understand each other. The men are from widely different districts. Thirty or forty men leave the force each year for their own villages, of which, if necessary, they become the mouthpiece in communicating with Europeans. The ordinary language of the constabulary is English or Motuan, the most widely known of all native dialects. So far no trace has been discovered of any language in the interior that is not connected with those on the coast, but this remark has reference only to the interior to the east of Kovio (Mount Yule). The language of the tribes met with by the Government Agent on the Mekeo Range is closely connected with the Mekeo dialect, which shows very plainly many Polynesian root words. Some of these are recognisable even at first hand in the dialect of the tribes visited by Mr. Kowald. The language of the inhabitants of Mount Musgrave and of Mount Knutsford is also nearly related to the coast dialects, and through them to the Polynesian family.

Polynesian root names certainly are met with as far west as the Aird River, but they are strangely few in some dialects compared with others, a difference not accounted for by proximity to the Pacific. It is not safe to speak at present of any Polynesian connection west of the Fly River. The most westerly dialect available for comparison is a vocabulary of over 500 words of the Saliraka dialect, the language of the scattered Tugeri people who, living between the 140th and 141st degree of east longitude, have been in the habit of invading the Possession. This vocabulary, prepared by Mr. Montague, and kindly supplied to this Government by the courtesy of Resident Bensbach, of Ternate, shows no connection with any known dialect of British New Guinea, nor consequently with the Polynesian languages, unless it perchance be in one or two words, which may or may not be pure coincidences. These certainly are by no means uncommon; at least one or two

striking examples could be produced of words having similar sounds and similar significance in Greece and in New Guinea.

It seems to be well established that in the Central and Western Districts the dialects are more permanent in character than they are in many of the eastern communities. The special want of fixity in the latter is largely or specially owing to the fact that the name of a deceased person is not used by the circle of his acquaintances. Names of persons are very frequently names of things, and the thing, on the decease of a person bearing its name, has to receive a new appellation; hence it will have one name in one village, and a totally different name in the next. This double or treble nomenclature was a great trouble in the Island of Murua (Woodlark), so much so that it was doubted at first whether there were not two languages blended together. It is more likely that the duplication is owing to the working of this taboo on the name of the deceased. It will probably die out, as the natives readily use the name of a deceased person when speaking to a European.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

49. The changes that took place in the establishments during the year were :—

Mr. Hatton Richards, Treasurer and Collector of Customs, was promoted to an office in the Gold Coast Colony. His place here was filled by the promotion of Mr. D. Ballantine. The latter was succeeded as sub-collector at Samarai by Mr. R. J. Kennedy.

Mr. Wriford retired from his post as Commandant of the Constabulary, and was succeeded by Mr. W. Palmer.

The appointments of Government Surveyor and Assistant Surveyor were abolished. Arrangements have been made by which surveys can be performed by employing a duly qualified unofficial surveyor.

Captain Jones succeeded Captain Young in command of the ss. "Merrie England."

50. No case of fatal illness occurred among the officers, but there were instances of rather serious sickness, and they had many slight attacks of fever.

There were no deaths in the constabulary except that of Constable Umi, who was murdered by a Pannieti native, a prisoner at the time.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PUBLIC WORKS.

51. No change was made during the year in the vessels belonging to the Government.

The Western Division was still without any better means of locomotion than a whaleboat. The other three Divisions had suitable vessels.

52. A few hundred acres of land were purchased by the Government from native owners for intending settlers, but land was bought only as required.

The principal work undertaken in the Western Division was a beginning to remove the station from Mabudauan to Daru Island.

In the Mekeo district, cultivation was extended and new buildings erected.

In the Central Division the prisoners weeded the cocoanut plantations, made roads, and levelled building sites. Some progress was made in building a stone wharf at Port Moresby.

The prisoners were also employed several months in the Eastern Division.

A large building, sixty feet by thirty, suitable as a Government store and bonded warehouse, was built at Ela, Port Moresby, of galvanised iron. It is in a suitable position, and should be sufficient for many years.

In the Rigo district the work of clearing land and planting it in cocoanuts was continued. The top of the hill on which the buildings are situated was partly levelled. Some new out-houses were also built.

At Samarai the principal work was the filling up of the swamp. Probably about two-fifths of it was completed during the year. It was found that this work told very severely on the prisoners. It was considered necessary to remove them back to Port Moresby, on grounds of health, when they had been at Samarai nearly six months. Their hands gave way, they suffered from fever, they lost condition, and were covered by boils and small sores.

A small stone jetty was built at Samarai. At considerable expense, a building was put up to serve as a bonded warehouse and Customs office. There was also some extension of planting.

At Nivani new buildings were erected, and planting begun.

TRADE.

Detailed tables of imports and exports, navigation, and postal matters, were duly furnished.

Imports.

53. The total of imports entered at Port Moresby and Samarai, respectively, has been :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1888-89 - -	6,016 0 0	5,019 0 0	11,108 0 0
1889-90 - -	6,798 0 0	9,305 0 0	16,104 0 0
1890-91 - -	7,455 0 0	8,075 0 0	15,530 0 0
1891-92 - -	10,379 0 0	13,377 0 0	23,755 0 0
1892-93 - -	13,173 0 0	12,088 0 0	25,261 0 0

The principal items were:—

	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	£	£	£	£	£
Food stuffs - -	5,400	7,124	4,463	6,037	6,252
Drapery - -	1,185	1,392	1,457	2,133	2,918
Tobacco and cigars -	996	1,290	2,354	3,257	2,407
Hardware - -	927	1,123	1,535	2,677	2,8[illegible]
Beverages - -	805	1,143	688	890	1,625
Clothes - -	550	190	255	705	4[illegible]6
Building materials -	246	1,086	1,224	1,965	1,474
Other articles -	999	2,756	3,554	6,091	7,261
Total -	11,108	16,104	15,530	23,755	25,261

It will be noticed that there has been a continuously increasing demand for drapery. Under "Beverages" are included articles like tea and coffee, which are used solely for making beverages. Of tea more than a ton and a half was imported.

As compared with the previous year, there is a distinct falling off in tobacco. Many natives have begun to demand to be paid in money and refuse payment in tobacco. Much of what used to be expended on tobacco on their account is now laid out by them on tinned meat and other articles.

Exports.

The total value of exports, as entered in the Custom House, has been:—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888-89 - -	5,071	871	5,943
1889-90 - -	5,458	997	6,455
1890-91 - -	7,678	755	8,134
1891-92 - -	8,099	3,190	11,289
1892-93 - -	6,290	8,675	14,966

The marked increase in the exports from Port Moresby is to be attributed to sandalwood, of which about 900 tons, valued at 7,183*l.*, was exported. Had the price of this wood not fallen considerably shortly after the beginning of the year, the value of this export would have been much greater than it is.

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In the above figures for 1392–93 there is included an export of 650 ounces of gold, valued at 2,050*l.* Mr. Burkitt, Sub-Collector of Customs at Cooktown, kindly furnishes particulars of the gold imported into Cooktown from British New Guinea during the year—viz., 582 ounces, valued at 2,236*l.*

That the production of gold is steadily falling off appears from the following comparison :—

Gold entered at the Custom House, Cooktown, from the Possession, has been—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Ounces -	3,850	3,470	2,426	1,235	582
Value -	£14,387	£12,440	£8,371	£4,329	£2,236

The Béche-de-mer fishery shows a marked decrease, but this is partly owing to the fact that certain of the small traders, who in previous years had followed the fishery as an industry, during the last year devoted their energies almost entirely to getting sandalwood. The produce of the fishery for the last five years has been :—

Export of Béche-de-Mer.

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Tons - -	38½	70¼	64¼	49	21¾
Value -	£2,178	£4,682	£5,030	£3,401	£1,573

The pearl-shell industry for the year shows a decided improvement. For 1890–91 the exports for this article were valued at 85*l.*; for 1891–92, at 542*l.*; and for 1892–93, at 1,623*l.* Nearly all the pearl-shell exported during the past year came from the south-eastern waters of the Possession.

An article included in last year's exports, and which did not figure as an export in former years, is pearls. These, to the value of 450*l.*, were exported last year. Fair quantities of pearls have lately been got from the Kiriwina Group, but as a rule these are not very valuable pearls.

Copra shows a falling off as compared with the two previous years. Some of the copra districts, however, were also sandalwood districts, and the natives of these districts probably found it more profitable to get this wood than to make copra. Several settlers have during the year planted cocoanuts extensively, and others purpose doing so. The natives also are extending their

groves of this palm, and in the future are likely to continue doing so.

The copra exported for the last five years has been—

1888–89	- -	76 tons, valued at	550*l.*
1889–90	- -	43 „ „	250*l.*
1890–91	- -	198 „ „	1,433*l.*
1891–92	- -	340 „ „	2,084*l.*
1892–93	- -	194 „ „	1,159*l.*

A small quantity of india-rubber figures in the list of exports for last year. It is, however, too soon to be able to judge whether this article will in the future become a substantial export or not.

Shipping.

54. No foreign merchant shipping visited the Possession during the year. The total number of foreign-going merchant vessels that entered during the twelve months was forty-two, of 3,351 tons; clearances were thirty-four, of 3,300 tons.

Since the latter part of 1892, the mail sailing ship has made regular bimensal trips from a northern port of Queensland along the southern coast of the Possession and back to a Queensland northern port. In addition to this vessel, a ship has plied between Thursday Island and Port Moresby, and another has made periodical quarterly trips from Cooktown to Samarai, and from thence among the islands of the Louisiade Archipelago and other neighbouring groups.

Postal.

55. Postal business up to the end of June, 1893, has been as follows:—

Article.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Letters received -	2,366	3,166	2,664	4,393	4,679
Letters despatched -	2,587	2,586	2,191	3,917	4,011
Packets received -	93	111	142	43	230
Packets despatched -	98	84	88	78	427
Newspapers received -	4,071	6,844	6,042	8,505	6,749
Newspapers despatched	574	590	466	756	276

FINANCE.

The statement of revenue and expenditure for the financial year ended 30th June 1893, together with certificate of audit by Mr. Deshon, have been submitted in the usual way.

Revenue.

56. The amount of revenue paid into the Queensland Treasury by the Possession during the year was 4,604*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* It is compared below with that of the four preceding years:—

Items.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs Dues	2,419 10 2	2,893 10 4	2,525 13 2	4,428 14 11	3,757 16 4
Gold Field Receipts	187 17 0	20 15 0	23 0 0	24 0 0	23 17 0
Fees—Shipping, Court Survey, &c.	1 18 0	4 10 0	4 3 0	10 14 0	157 8 5
Fines	25 13 6	41 10 0	46 5 0	34 0 0	24 10 0
Licenses	2 0 0	11 0 0	21 0 0	136 15 0	106 0 0
Miscellaneous	42 13 2	44 8 0	53 18 2	149 12 6	335 4 9
Total £	2,679 11 10	3,015 13 4	2,673 19 4	4,783 16 5	4,604 16 6

The increase under "Fees" is principally due to survey fees.

Expenditure.

57. The full sum of 15,000*l.* available for the current Administrative Services for the year was expended. The actual expenditure is classified below and compared with that of previous years:—

Head of Expenditure.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Civil List Salaries	2,633 19 7	3,300 0 0	3,290 12 8	3,300 0 0	3,300 0 0
Other Salaries	1,796 0 6	2,381 18 6	3,476 10 5	3,559 2 0	3,707 3 10
Vessels and Boats	2,747 11 4	2,564 3 0	2,938 16 3	2,993 6 5	1,600 8 3
Allowances—house and travelling—for all officers.	1,296 13 11	2,548 3 2	1,500 0 0	1,356 0 5	1,748 15 4
Buildings and Public Works.	185 1 10	1,144 19 3	979 0 8	780 10 1	872 4 6
Agriculture	2 10 0	137 11 9	355 9 2	335 12 3	146 19 6
Mail Service	445 0 0	—	—	—	450 0 0
Miscellaneous	1,662 14 1	2,898 9 8	2,459 10 10	2,675 8 10	3,174 8 7
Total £	10,769 11 3	14,975 5 4	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0

The full amount voted was expended on Civil List Salaries. On other salaries there was an excess in expenditure over the amount appropriated of 57*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*

Exploration Fund.

58. The sum to the credit of this account at the beginning of the financial year was 509*l.* 5*s.* Of this sum, 275*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* was expended, leaving a balance of 233*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* The expenditure charged to this account was mainly in connection with the further examination of the shores of the Gulf of Papua, and of the numerous rivers that empty themselves into the Gulf.

S.S. "Merrie England."

59. The financial year in connection with the "Merrie England" accounts terminates on the 31st March in each year; the gross total expenditure on this service for the financial year ended 31st March, 1893, was 7,662*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*; but 413*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* was covered by refunds and earnings, leaving a net expenditure of 7,249*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* The Imperial Government gave 5,000*l.*, and the contributing colonies 2,000*l.* for the maintenance of the steamer.* Of the 249*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* not covered by the contribution of 7,000*l.*, the sum of 124*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* was met by an unexpended balance of that amount brought over from the previous year, leaving a deficit of 125*l* 0*s.* 6*d.* The increase in expenditure was mainly due to the cost of repairs and other expenses, arising from the grounding of the steamer on a coral reef in the discoloured water of the western coast.

During the year the "Merrie England" used 671 tons of coal, and ran 14,840 miles.

PRISONS.

60. There were prisons in the Western Division, in Mekeo, at Port Moresby, in Rigo, and at Samarai. None was built at Nivani, but the Resident Magistrate for that Division had it in contemplation to commence to erect one.

Twenty-nine prisoners were received into the gaol at Port Moresby during the year, and ten were discharged on the expiration of their sentences. There were four long-sentenced prisoners at the Western station, six at Mekeo, and four at the Rigo station. The number of prisoners in Port Moresby gaol varied from 38 to 20.

No deaths occurred, but there were many cases of minor illnesses.

The large amount of work they performed was very satisfactory † There was no escape from the Port Moresby gaol, and no attempted escape.

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* The Imperial contribution has been reduced to 4,000*l.* a year from 1st April, 1893, and that of the contributing colonies increased to 3,000*l.* a year from same date.

† Not printed.

Mr. G'beson, as usual, maintained excellent discipline, based on kind but firm treatment.

MISSION WORK.

61. With the exception of only a few fast-diminishing gaps, the whole of the coast from the Wasikussa to Kappi Kappi (Cape Vogel) is more or less under missionary influence. About half of the D'Entrecasteaux Group, half the Louisiades, and practically all the intervening islands were brought under the influence of the Wesleyan Church.

The last-named mission has three thoroughly substantial establishments, at Dobu, Tubetube, and at Pannieti. Their teaching, stamped with the energy and earnestness of the Rev. W. Bromilow, the senior minister, has had very remarkable success. The Anglican mission has languished for want of men and teachers. An excellent head-quarter station has been prepared, but Mr. King has not been able to extend teaching far beyond his own reach.

A model native-built station has been completed at the London Missionary Society station at Kwato, and their settlements in connection with that station have been further extended along the coast.

The influence of the London Missionary Society's station at Kerepunu has been quietly and unostentatiously growing in depth and circumference.

Clearly a great change for the better is observable in the Port Moresby natives lately. This is to some extent due to the excellent village policeman, but it certainly also arises in some measure from the fact that they begin to have their views widened by the teaching of the mission, and to understand better their duties and position.

By the death of Bishop Verjus the Sacred Heart mission and the country sustained a lamentable loss. He was young, courageous, loyal, and enthusiastic. With rare liberality and breadth of mind, he fostered friendly relations with the missionaries of other denominations settled here. He worked hand in hand with the officers of the Government with whom he came into contact. Endowed with great energy, he was able to become personally acquainted with the different tribes in his district, to know their ways and to understand their wants. His plans for their good cannot but meet with some delay. It is much to be desired that his views and methods should be adhered to

The labours of the London Missionary Society in the Gulf of Papua, and in the Fly River, were continued by the Rev. J. Chalmers, who has fixed on the Island of Dauan as the principal station in the west.

There is probably not a coast village between the Mai Kussa and Port Moresby at which this missionary is not known. The personal danger connected with opening missions on that coast he

has practically exhausted, and the ground is gradually becoming filled up by native teachers.

METEOROLOGY.

62. A Report on meteorology* was prepared by Mr. Musgrave, Government Secretary.

For the outlying stations the returns supplied were only fragmentary.

According to these tables, the rainfall at Port Moresby during the year was a fraction under thirty inches, while the incomplete and interrupted returns from the Western Division record about seventy-three inches.

The greatest temperature noted was 98° on 11th June, 1892, at Port Moresby. At the same station the lowest reading of the thermometer was 72°. At Mabudauan a minimum reading of 69° seems common, while 61° or 62° appears to not be rare in the Mekeo district.

GENERAL.

63. The Government of Queensland continued to the Possession the same valuable assistance as heretofore. The Surveyor-General, Mr. A. McDowall, by the efficient and practical aid given by himself personally, and through his department, rendered it possible to prepare sketch maps which otherwise would have remained undone.

Captain Almond, Portmaster, and Mr. Stuart, supervised the re-fitting of the steamer; and the former performed many other skilled services for the Possession.

The usual annual visit was made by me to Brisbane for the despatch of business there. Mr. Winter, with care and efficiency, acted during that interval as Deputy Administrator.

The health of officers during the year was fairly satisfactory. The remarks that precede will show that they performed not a little meritorious service during the period under review.

I have, &c.

WM. MACGREGOR,
Administrator,

His Excellency
Sir Henry Wylie Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.I.E., &c.,
Governor of Queensland.

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* Not printed.

No. 2.

Sir H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1892-3.

Government House, Brisbane,
July 31, 1894.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

IN continuation of my Despatch, dated 18th instant,* in which I forwarded the Annual Report of the British New Guinea Administration for the year ending 30th June 1893, I have now the honour to report, that the Chief Secretary of Queensland informs me that he has no observations to make on the Report, but that he has read it with great interest.

2. The Report itself contains much information that will be of interest to your Lordship and shows that much valuable and arduous work has been carried on to the benefit of the people of the Possession.

3. The Revenue, it will be seen, amounted to 4,604*l.*, which is rather less than the revenue of the preceding year. The 15,000*l.* contributed by the Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland, was fully expended, as well as the 7,000*l.* given by the Imperial Treasury, and the three Colonies for the maintenance of the steamer "Merrie England."

4. The Imports were of the value of 25,261*l.*, being an increase of 1,506*l.* over those of the previous year, and the value of the Exports was 14,966*l.*, being an increase of 3,677*l.* over the value of the exports of the preceding year. These increases show progress in the trade of the Possession, but the exports include 650 ounces of gold valued at 2,050*l.* The gold export is, as stated by Sir William MacGregor, steadily decreasing, there having been a falling off in each year, from 1888–89, when 14,387*l.* worth of gold was exported, until the present year, when it was less than one-sixth of the value exported five years ago. Considerable improvement is apparent in the pearl-shelling industry, and there is a marked increase in the export of sandal wood, the value of which during the year was nearly equal to the value of all other exports.

5. There can be no doubt that the condition of the people of British New Guinea, so far as our influence extends, is improving in all respects, while the efforts of the four Missionary bodies who labour in the Possession are bearing good fruit.

I have, &c.

H. W. NORMAN.

No. 3.

Sir H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1893-4.

Government House, Brisbane,
November 7, 1894.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

I DO myself the honour to enclose in separate cover six printed copies of the Annual Report of the British New Guinea

* No. 1.

Administration for the year ended on the 30th June, 1894. I also enclose, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a letter from the Chief Secretary of Queensland, dated the 1st instant, in reply to the memorandum in which I forwarded Sir William MacGregor's report for his information and remarks.

2. The Report is full of interest, and I am sure will be read by your Lordship with satisfaction.

3. The various reports of visits of inspection by the Administrator which are attached as appendices to the Report, have been already separately sent to your Lordship and all reports or references on which action has been required have been dealt with here when they were received. The appendices contain a large amount of valuable information on many subjects connected with the Possession.

4. In my despatch of yesterday's date*, I have enclosed particulars of the revenue and expenditure of British New Guinea for last year and from Appendix LL.* of the Report now sent it will be seen that the Imports of the year are valued at 26,500*l.* and the Exports at 14,951*l.*, as compared with 25,261*l.*, and 14,966*l.* for Imports and Exports last year. The exports of most importance are Béche-de-mer, copra, gold, pearl, shell and sandal-wood, and there has been some increase in the export of all these articles except sandal wood, in which the quantity exported has fallen from 899 tons, of the value of 7,183*l.*, to 321 tons, of the value of 1,896*l.*

5. Civilisation and Christianity seem to be making fair progress in the Possession by means of the various agencies at work, but no doubt there is much to be done in portions of the Territory which as yet have not come thoroughly under the influence of the Government Officers or the Missionary bodies.

I have, &c.

H. W. NORMAN.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
November 1, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to return herewith Sir William MacGregor's Annual Report for the year from the 1st July 1893 to the 30th June 1894, which your Excellency was good enough to send me on the 26th ultimo, for my perusal.

The Report, which is very full and complete, and of great interest, gives evidence that the work done by the Administrator during the year of which it treats is likely to have effects of lasting value.

I have, &c.

HUGH M. NELSON.

His Excellency
Sir Henry W. Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.I.E.,
Governor.

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* Not printed.

ANNUAL REPORT on BRITISH NEW GUINEA from 1st JULY 1893 to 30th JUNE 1894.

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BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1893–4.

Sir WM. MACGREGOR to SIR H. W. NORMAN.

SIR, Brisbane, August 23, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to present a Report of my proceedings in the government of British New Guinea for the year ending with June 1894, as directed by Section XXXVI. of the Royal Instructions.

LEGISLATION.

Ordinances.

1. Ordinance No. I. of 1893.—This measure was passed to appropriate for the services of the year the following sums:—For ordinary administrative purposes, £15,000; to defray the expense of maintenance of the s.s. "Merrie England," £7,000.

2. Ordinance No. II. of 1893.—The object of this law is to facilitate and encourage job contracts and similar dealings between Europeans and natives. It does not affect engagements entered into under "*The Native Labour Ordinance of* 1892," or under "*The Pearlshell and Béche-de-mer Fishery Ordinance of* 1891."

Any contract that would necessarily involve a breach of any native regulation is declared to be unlawful.

Any contract for the sale or purchase of a boat must, to be valid, be put in writing, and be approved by an inspector appointed by the Administrator under this Ordinance.

The same arrangement applies to job contracts by natives for the performance of a piece of work at a distance of more than twenty-five miles from the home of the native; or when the work would extend over a period of twelve months or when the remuneration to be paid for it exceeds five pounds.

An inspector may use his own discretion as to approving a contract or otherwise. It had already been found that in several instances old and unseaworthy boats had been sold to natives for indigenous products. It appeared to be very desirable to not cause payments in boats to be discontinued, but rather to encourage such transactions by regulating them, and explaining fully to natives their nature and terms, and by securing for them fair dealing.

It is also hoped that the provisions of this Ordinance may encourage such contract work by natives as the clearing of land, the making of roads, weeding and planting cocoanuts, &c. But it is not meant to include such transactions as an engagement by a native to supply a stated amount of native products at a fixed price within a given time, which would interfere with ordinary trading.

3. Ordinance No. III. of 1893.—It was found by experience that some modification and extension of the provisions of "*The Native Labour Ordinance of* 1892" had become necessary. That law conferred on the proper officer the discretionary power of

allowing a native to be taken by any Christian Mission established in the Possession to any Queensland island north of the tenth degree of south latitude. The Sacred Heart Mission wished to take a few boys from the Mekeo district to Thursday Island (which is south of the tenth degree) to learn English in their school there. It was quite clear that this would be a great gain to the natives, and advantageous to the district, while also calculated to further the work of the Mission. This Ordinance accordingly enables permits to be issued for removing natives to Thursday Island for this purpose.

A few natives had found out that there was no enactment for punishing them should they fail to take up service after they had entered into a written agreement under the Native Labour Ordinance, or if they deserted from such service. Provision was accordingly made for inflicting a penalty of imprisonment in such cases.

4. Ordinance No. I. of 1894 was passed to amend "*The Intestacy Act of* 1877" (Queensland adopted). Owing to the large extent of the Possession and the infrequency of communication between the Central Court and Resident Magistrates and Government Agents, it was found that much loss often occurred in estates left vacant or intestate before an order could be obtained from the Central Court. In addition to the actual loss and deterioration to an estate left without proper supervision, there had also to be considered the great temptation presented in such cases to natives for pilfering and misappropriation. This law was accordingly prepared to enable the Curator to act at once in cases in which a person dies leaving goods or land in the Possession without having an executor that can or will act on his behalf.

The Curator may, under this Ordinance, either himself or by an agent, take any steps necessary to preserve the property or to utilise it for the benefit of the estate. He may sell goods or produce, and pay funeral and other necessary expenses.

The Curator must, however, as soon as possible, apply to the Central Court in each case for an order enabling him to deal with land or goods under the Intestacy Act, after which the ordinary course is pursued.

5. Ordinance No. II. of 1894 was passed to provide for the protection of wild birds. Our knowledge of the birds of the Possession is as yet very far from being complete, but it is sufficiently great to make it manifest that restrictive measures are necessary in order to preserve certain kinds from speedy extinction.

It would not be possible to prepare an inclusive law that could at once embrace all the different species that may require now or hereafter to be put under protection. The Ordinance therefore provides that protection may be extended from time to time, as may be found necessary, to any species that extended knowledge and greater experience show to be in need of it.

By a Proclamation issued under this Ordinance the destruction or capture of all wild birds except birds of prey is prohibited on the watershed of the harbour of Port Moresby, and on the islands of Samari and Daru. This was shown to be very necessary by the fact that the feathered fauna in the neighbourhood of Port Moresby has twice within the last six years been ruthlessly and inconsiderately slaughtered, so that for months hardly a singing bird was heard in the neighbourhood.

By a similar Proclamation, the peculiar bird of paradise of the Raggiana class, found on the island of Fergusson, in the D'Entrecasteaux group, can no longer be shot or captured. So far as is at present known, this variety occurs only on that island, and is by no means common even there.

The large and beautiful bird belonging to the division of the birds of paradise, and called by the native name of "Bulibuli," has also been put under protection. This bird is not known to exist outside of the D'Entrecasteaux and Kiriwina groups of islands. In these it is met with at present in considerable numbers. Its habits render it an easy prey to the hunter. As a morning songster it is unique, and there are but few more handsome birds in any country.

Native Regulations.

Four Regulations were passed by the Native Regulation Board during the year.

6. Regulation No. I. of 1893 was passed to enable the estates of deceased natives to be dealt with in a simpler and more suitable manner than was possible under the general laws applicable to the estates of Europeans under similar circumstances. The regulation was passed to meet a want that was found to exist in actual practice. This regulation provides that a native cannot dispose by will of any interest possessed by him in any land he holds simply because he is a native; it also exempts the intestate estates of natives from the operation of the ordinary law. It directs that in the absence of a will, the property of a deceased native shall descend according to native custom.

Distributors are appointed under the Regulation by the Administrator, with power to deal with effects in such estates, but the distributors have no power to deal with real estate; they can however, sell or divide effects and pay debts. Conflicting claims in reference to effects are to be treated as civil claims under Regulation IX. of 1890. Distributors report half-yearly to the Government secretary.

7. Regulation No. II. of 1893 forbids the practice of sorcery. The sorcerer is a weed of universal distribution in the Possession. Sorcery is used as a means of extorting blackmail or for obtaining revenge. The extent to which it is believed in is proved by the fact that it often frightens people into serious sickness, and is even said to occasionally cause death by terror. Several tribes have

denounced the practice, and have delivered the "puripuri" (the garbage which constitutes the material agent in producing supernatural effects at the will of the sorcerer) to officers of the Government. The witch and sorcerer have in some districts caused much mischief, and have at times greatly disturbed and retarded the work of teachers. The majority of the natives approve warmly of the suppression of sorcery, and it is already manifest that this Regulation will be productive of considerable good.

8. Regulation No. I. of 1894 is an effort towards the making and clearing of roads by natives. Owing to the fertility of much of the soil, and the moisture and heat of the climate, the growth of the different kinds of grass and shrubs is very luxuriant, and the natives make no attempt to clear the paths except by burning the grass when it is ripe and dry. Under the Regulation, a magistrate for native matters can direct a village as to what roads it shall make or clear on its own lands. Any native that refuses or fails to perform his fair share of this work may be imprisoned for any period not exceeding seven days. It was brought into force with good results in the Rigo and Mekeo districts.

9. Regulation No. II. of 1894 was passed in the hope that it might assist in extending the planting of cocoanuts by natives. This cultivation is simple and already well-known to them. The cocoanut is indigenous, and thrives remarkably well. Several tribes have been induced to plant many nuts, but the Magistrates for Native Matters unanimously desired a law that would enable heavy pressure to be brought to bear on individuals that would not otherwise move in this direction.

The Magistrate for Native Matters fixes the minimum number of cocoanuts that are to be planted each year by the occupants of each village, taking into account all their particular circumstances. This Regulation, like all others, can only be applied in certain places; but it has already been of considerable use, and will doubtless, if judiciously worked, greatly extend the copra industry.

10. Regulations having the force of law were passed under the provisions of "*The Gold Fields Act*, 1874" (Queensland adopted). They apply only to the island of Tagula (Sudest). Most of the creeks on that island have already been worked and the surface washed for gold. At many spots, however, there are large pools, formed by bars of slate crossing the course of the creek and damming back the water. To get to the bed of the creek in such places it is necessary to cut through these schist dykes, often a work of considerable labour and expense, so that it could not be undertaken for the privilege of working the ordinary mining claim. The diggers of the island asked that, under such circumstances, the claim should be extended by the warden to the total extent of 800 feet. This Regulation is not applicable to Misima, owning to the different kind of sluicing required there.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

11. The establishment for the administration of Justice remains unchanged.

I am indebted to His Honour F. P. Winter, C.M.G., Chief Judicial Officer, for the following tabulated list of cases dealt with by the Courts during the year :—

MATTERS DEALT WITH JUDICIALLY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1894.

CENTRAL COURTS.

Criminal Jurisdiction—Appeals.

Court appealed from.	Conviction appealed against.	Result of Appeal.
Court of Petty Sessions, Eastern District	Defamation -	Conviction quashed.
" " "	Sedition - -	" "
" " "	" - -	" "
" " "	" - -	" "
" " "	" - -	" "
" " "	" - -	" "
" " "	" - -	" "
		" "

Criminal Business (Ordinary).

Number of persons committed for Trial.	District from which committed.	Persons committed—how disposed of.
33	Central District - -	25 tried 1 committal quashed 1 discharged 8 awaiting trial
23	Eastern District - -	18 tried 2 committal quashed 2 discharged 1 awaiting trial
19	Western District - -	7 tried 1 committal quashed 11 awaiting trial
Total - - 77		

The Court held twenty-six Criminal Sessions at the places and Times, and with the Results, under mentioned :—

No. of Persons tried.	Offence charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		AROMA—15th July 1893.	
11	(1) murder, (2) wounding, (3) assault.	4 guilty, 7 not guilty -	2 six months', 2 four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

No. of Persons tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		SAMARAI—18th July 1893.	
2	1 murder, 1 breaking out of gaol.	1 guilty manslaughter, 1 guilty breaking out of gaol.	1 three months', 1 two weeks', imprisonment with hard labour.
		PANAIETTI—20th July 1893.	
1	1 murder - - -	1 guilty - - -	1 death.
		SUDEST ISLAND—22nd July 1893.	
1	1 shooting with intent to murder.	1 not guilty.	
		SAMARAI—9th August 1893.	
5	3 murder, 2 receiving stolen goods.	1 guilty of murder, 2 not guilty, 2 discharged.	1 death.
		KIRIWINA—1st November 1893.	
2	1 assault, 1 wounding -	2 not guilty.	
		SAMARAI—4th November 1893.	
6	4 murder, 2 wounding -	4 guilty murder, 2 guilty wounding.	4 death; 1 six months' 1 three months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		PORT MORESBY—8th November 1893.	
2	2 (1) murder, (2) assault	1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of assault.	2 four months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		PORT MORESBY—29th November 1893.	
1	1 murder - - -	1 guilty murder - -	1 death.
		PORT MORESBY—1st December 1893.	
2	2 murder - - -	2 guilty murder - -	2 death.
		DARU—1st and 2nd January 1894.	
2	1 wounding, 1 murder -	1 guilty murder, 1 guilty wounding.	1 death, 1 one years' imprisonment with hard labour.
		SAGUANA (FLY RIVER)—8th January 1894.	
5	1 murder, 1 abusing girl between ages ten and twelve, 2 abusing girl under ten, 1 wounding.	1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty indecent assault, 2 guilty of abusing girl under ten, 1 not guilty.	1 twelve months', 2 six months' imprisonment with hard labour, 1 five years' penal servitude.
		KARAMA (GULF)—10th January 1894.	
	1 (1) murder, (7) wounding.	1 guilty of wounding -	1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		TOARIPI—11th January 1894.	
2	2 murder - - -	2 guilty murder - -	2 death.
		MEKEO—15th January 1894.	
1	1 murder - - -	1 guilty, manslaughter -	1 imprisonment until rising of the Court.
		MEKEO—22nd January 1894.	
1	1 murder - - -	1 guilty murder - -	1 death.
		PORT MORESBY—5th February 1894.	
5	5 murder - - -	5 not guilty - - -	
		BEGASSI (FERGUSSON ISLAND)—9th March 1894.	
1	1 murder - - -	1 not guilty.	
		DOBU—10th March 1894.	
4	1 murder, 2 sedition, 1 assault.	1 not guilty, 3 discharged.	

No. of Persons tried.	Offence charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		SAMARAI—12th March 1894.	
1	1 murder	1 guilty manslaughter	1 twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		SAMARAI—18th April 1894.	
1	1 (1) murder, (7) assault	1 guilty of assault	1 twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		SAMARAI—16th May 1894.	
1	1 (1) murder, (7) assault	1 guilty of assault	1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		HENEGA (EAST CAPE)—17th May 1894.	
1	1 (1) murder, (7) assault	1 not guilty.	
		ROSSEL ISLAND—6th June 1894.	
2	2 murder	2 not guilty.	
		DOBU—14th June 1894.	
1	1 desecration of sepulture	1 guilty	1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		PORT MORESBY—27th June 1894.	
1	1 wounding	1 guilty wounding	1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
Total - 63			

Civil Business.

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings, &c.
3	Applications for order to administer by Curator of Intestate Estates.
1	Application for directions by Curator of Intestate Estates.
Total 4	

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Indictable Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Inquiry.
Central District -	58	50 murder 1 soliciting to commit murder. 4 wounding 1 arson 1 infanticide 1 breaking prison	35 committed. 4 discharged. 19 on remand.
Eastern District -	24	15 murder 2 assault 1 wounding 2 larceny 4 sedition	14 committed. 4 discharged. 6 on remand.
Western District -	20	12 murder 3 rape 3 wounding 1 attempt to rape 1 abusing child	19 committed. 1 discharged.
	Total 102		

Summary Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central District -	41	6 assault - - -	3 convicted, 3 dismissed.
		4 desertion as a constable	4 convicted.
		1 breach of Constabulary Ordinance.	1 convicted.
		9 larceny - - -	9 convicted.
		3 harbouring escaped prisoner.	3 dismissed.
		1 escaping from gaol -	1 convicted.
		3 injuries to property -	3 convicted.
		13 desertion from service -	13 convicted.
		1 breach of Liquor Ordinance.	1 convicted.
Eastern District -	61	17 larceny - - -	16 convicted, 1 dismissed.
		18 assault - - -	10 convicted, 8 dismissed.
		6 injuries to property -	1 convicted, 5 dismissed.
		2 aiding prisoner to escape	2 convicted.
		1 abusive language -	1 dismissed.
		1 breach of Pearl Shell Ordinance.	1 convicted.
		2 defamation - -	1 convicted, 1 dismissed.
		2 resisting police - -	2 convicted.
		6 sedition - - -	6 convicted.
		1 obscene language -	1 convicted.
		3 breach of the peace -	3 convicted.
		1 extortion - -	1 convicted.
		1 breach of Liquor Ordinance.	1 dismissed.
Western District -	3	3 assault - - -	3 convicted.
	Total 105		

Civil Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Action.	Result of Action.
Central District - -	—	Nil - - - -	
Eastern District - -	2	Breach of contract -	Verdict for defendant.
		Debt - - - -	Verdict for defendant.
Western District - -	1	Debt - - - -	Verdict for plaintiff.
	3		

NATIVE MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

Criminal Jurisdiction—(Forbidden Acts.)

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central) -	49	26 larceny - - -	19 convicted, 7 dismissed.
		15 assault - -	14 convicted, 1 dismissed.
		4 burying in village -	3 convicted, 1 dismissed.
		1 obstructing constables -	1 convicted.
		1 destroying cocoanut trees	1 convicted.
		1 spreading lying reports -	1 convicted.
		1 threatening language -	1 dismissed.
No. 3 (Eastern) -	36	7 adultery - -	7 convicted.
		18 larceny - - -	18 convicted.
		1 abduction - - -	1 dismissed.
		4 sorcery - - -	2 convicted, 2 dismissed.
		2 escaping from custody -	2 convicted.
		4 assault - - -	4 convicted.
No. 1 (Western) -	9	1 assault - - - -	1 convicted.
		5 adultery -	1 convicted, 4 dismissed.
		3 theft - - -	1 convicted, 2 dismissed.
	94		

Civil Jurisdiction (Civil Claims).

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Claim.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central) -	—	Injuring sago trees -	Verdict for plaintiff. Damages assessed in native ornaments.
No. 3 (Eastern) -	—	Nil.	
No. 1 (Western) -	—	Ownership of dugong spear	Verdict for plaintiff.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court (including 7 appeals) - - - - -	84
In Courts of Petty Sessions (exclusive of the 84 cases that went up to Central Court) - - - - -	130
In Native Magistrates' Courts - - - - -	94
In all Courts - - - - - -	308

TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court - - - - - - -	4
In Courts of Petty Sessions - - - - -	3
In Native Magistrates' Courts - - - - -	2
In all Courts - - - - - -	9

Of the total 308 cases that came before the courts in their criminal jurisdiction, thirteen resulted in a sentence of capital punishment. The sentence was commuted to long terms of penal servitude in all cases save one—the first one that presented itself during the year.

A native of the Island of Panaietti was undergoing a short term of imprisonment for theft. He got hold of a tomahawk that had been left within his reach, and with it wounded the coxswain of the cutter "Maino," and by a blow on the head killed on the spot one of the constabulary as he lay asleep. The accused was tried at his own island in the presence of a considerable number of his countrymen. They all with one accord approved of the sentence of capital punishment. In this case it was not possible to find any extenuating circumstance that could justify commutation of the sentence. The convict had no personal grudge against his victim; the latter belonged to a Gulf tribe, and it was therefore impossible that there ever could have been any intertribal quarrels in which these two men were both interested. The crime could only be imputed to the murderous propensity of the convict. The fact that the murdered man was a member of the constabulary gave a peculiar prominence to the case, as did also the notoriously bad character of the convict. He was accordingly executed at his island on the 2nd August, 1893. This was the first time in which the extreme penalty of the law was carried out on a native for the murder of one of his own countrymen. In all previous cases there had been mitigating circumstances that could be considered in favour of the convict, but these were totally wanting in this instance.

A native of Bakera, on Duau Ieland, was sentenced to death at a sitting of the court at Samarai. Some three or four years ago a Greek trader had taken some men from Bakera to fish for him. They were all drowned, and the tribe killed a white trader as "payment." This convict was one of the assailants. In view of the length of time that had already elapsed since the murder, and in consideration of the circumstances involving by tribal custom the taking of life in compensation, the sentence was commuted to penal servitude.

A third conviction was a second man that had also some share in the murder of the trader. His case was dealt with in the same way as the last preceding one.

A native of Meoki, on Duau Island, was sentenced to capital punishment at Samaria for the murder of another native that some years previously had killed his mother. This murder took place in a remote and unfrequented part of the island, and was the closing item in a long account of murder and revenge between two families. These circumstances were allowed to weigh in favour of the convict's life.

A case almost exactly similar to the last was dealt with at the same time. A native of Kwanau one day met on the path a mountaineer of Duau that had in bygone times killed his mother. He at once cleft the skull of the mountaineer with a large bush knife he happened to carry. The accused admitted the crime, but considered he had only done his duty. In this position it was possible to find grounds for commutation.

A tribe at Baiio, on Fugusson, believed themselves to be afflicted by the machinations of a witch, and the community rose against her. She said to the chief, "You take and drown me and all the people will be satisfied." He took the old woman by the hand and led her to the beach, put her in a canoe, tied a stone to her feet and another to her neck, pushed out to deep water, and threw her overboard. The accused defended himself by saying he drowned her because she was killing people by witchcraft. The peculiar circumstances of the case were considered to justify clemency.

A native of Koiari, village of Giniori, was convicted of the murder of his wife under brutal circumstances. They had been in the garden at work, and she refused to carry home a bunch of bananas. He had a tomahawk in his hand, with which he at once cleft her skull. The fact that the murder was quite unpremeditated, and that the weapon happened to be in his hand at the critical moment, was taken into consideration, and the sentence was commuted to an unusually long term of penal servitude.

Two men of the hill tribe of Ebei, in the Central District, were sentenced to capital punishment under peculiar circumstances. It appeared that a member of the Ebei tribe died, and that someone had suggested that the natives of Gehudu had killed him by sorcery. Ebei consequently attacked Gehudu and killed several people. Only two of the assailants were brought to trial. These tribes

had been but little in contact with any others under Government influence, and the two convicts were only ordinary participants in a general onset. It would have been harsh to order the sentences to be carried out.

A native of the village of Sui, on the Fly Estuary, was sentenced to capital punishment for killing another man by an arrow.

There had been a quarrel in the village in connection with a girl that had eloped. When the constabulary went to make an arrest, a woman that was frightened dropped her child and the fall killed it. The accused, the father of the child, discharged an arrow some time later at the girl's father, but, missing him, struck another man in the breast so that he died of the wound.

Two men of Toaripi in the east end of the Gulf, were convicted of the murder of a small boy and were sentenced to capital punishment. The boy had stolen some tobacco belonging to them. They knew that the Government punished murderers; but they did not think the Government would interfere on account of a small orphan boy. They said they killed him "because he was no good." The crime was really imputable to the want of appreciation of the value of human life. But they were the first cases of the kind from the district.

A native of the village of Taina, at the foot of the Mekeo range of mountains, was convicted of the murder of a child. A woman had eloped and fled to another tribe, taking with her a young child by a former husband. He went with a friend to bring back the child. On the return journey, the friend suggested that they should kill the child because its mother had run away. The father at first objected, but his scruples were overcome by his companion, who killed the child accordingly. It was stated in evidence that it was not customary to destroy a child under such circumstances; but there is some reason to doubt this. It seemed tolerably clear that the convict honestly believed that it was the right thing to do. It did not appear that law or justice could gain anything by the execution of this young man. His capture was effected at great trouble in the mountains, and the term of penal servitude will be sufficient warning to the district.

The 26 sittings of the Central Court in its criminal jurisdiction were held as below:—

In the Western Division - - - -	2
In the Central Division - - - -	10
In the Eastern Division - - - -	8
In the South-eastern Division - - -	6

Seven cases—one for defamation and six for sedition—were brought before the Central Court on appeal, with the result that the convictions were quashed.

There were 20 cases awaiting trial by the Central Court at the end of the year.

Of the 102 cases charged before the Courts of Petty Sessions with indictable offences, 77 were for murder, one soliciting to commit murder, one for infanticide, eight for wounding, and two for

assault, making 88 cases for actual violence. Some five may be classed as sexual crimes; of these three were convicted, one of indecent assault, and two of abusing a girl under 10 years of age.

No case occurred of supplying arms or ammunition to a native. There were two charges involving breaches of the Liquor Ordinance, in one of which a conviction was recorded, while the other case was dismissed.

Of the 94 cases tried in the Courts of the Magistrates for Native Matters, 47 were for larceny, of which 38 were convicted. The next most common offence was assault, presenting 20 cases, of which only one was dismissed. Adultery comes next with 12 cases and eight convictions. Four cases of sorcery were heard; of these two were dismissed.

The total number of cases brought before the Courts has been:—

1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.	1890-91.	1889-90.
317	138	142	81	71

There are doubtless hundreds of crimes each year that are not brought before the magistrates, but the number of serious crimes committed is undoubtedly greatly diminished. But although this is unquestionably true, it also a fact that the crimes now made known to the Government become steadily, greatly more numerous. In many districts a crime cannot now be committed without punishment following, where three or four years ago scores of grave crimes could be, and actually were, perpetrated without the cognisance of the Government. If the spread of authority continues uninterruptedly, there will, for the above reason, be a great apparent increase of crime, while its actual amount will be in the inverse ratio. That is to say, that fewer crimes will be committed, but a constantly increasing proportion of them, larger both absolutely and relatively, will be dealt with by the Courts. The Papuan has undoubtedly a keen, though a perverted, sense of justice. His whole system of ethics has for foundation the principle of compensation. Compensation for a crime may be given in blood or property. Only time and experience can convince him that it is safer for himself to leave the State to extort the "payment" for a crime. He is quite clear that "payment" must be had in some form or other.

Administrative Visits of Inspection.

12. Towards the end of June a visit was begun from Port Moresby eastward. It was found that the sea-pile dwellings of Kaile were, now that safety on land is assured, being abandoned for buildings ashore. A suitable member of the community was appointed village policeman. At Kappakappa several thousand young

cocoanut trees, planted by the natives under Government prompting, were seen to be thriving well.

The *Government station at Rigo* was in good condition, growing the greater part of the food required for police and prisoners. Several thousand cocoanut trees were doing remarkably well. Many plants of economic value—such as different kinds of cotton and rice—were nearly ready for giving out in distribution, if anyone could be found to plant them. The district was so thoroughly pacified that murders had ceased, and village and house burials been discontinued; the most disquieting matter was the large number of deaths caused by snake-bite in this district.

13. Shortly before Aroma (called Galoma in their own tongue) was reached there had been a great inter-tribal fight, in which over 30 men had been wounded, and two or three killed. The former combatants had now, however, become reconciled, being determined to settle their own differences, and to jointly resist the Government. They could put some 400 to 500 spearmen in the field—a force that was somewhat formidable in the face of a score of polyglot, raw, undrilled recruits. It was decided to temporise, and, in order to avoid bloodshed if possible, to try the effect of continued firm moral pressure. After a visit to the tribes at Aroma, during which the consequences of hostilities between them and the Government were very plainly put before them, the party ascended the Upugau River, which goes inland behind the Aroma lands, and then turns away northward to the main range of mountains. This cutting the tribe off behind had considerable moral effect on them, and when visited again to receive their decision as to whether they would surrender the ringleaders or fight, some of them were delivered up. The escape of one of them from the "Merrie England" undid most of what had been accomplished, on which a number of the young men of the tribe were surrounded and arrested, and all arms found in Aroma were burned. About a dozen were tried before the Central Court, and a few were sentenced to terms of imprisonment. Subsequently the principals still wanted were arrested or given up by the tribe. Half-a-dozen good men were appointed village policemen in Aroma, and these have ever since done their duty well.

The complete subjugation of this tribe without bloodshed was undoubtedly one of the most successful achievements of the Government. The patience of those concerned was submitted to a very severe trial; but in no other case has the result been more complete and satisfactory.

14. An inspection of certain places in the east end of the Possession was begun at Samarai in the second half of July. At Suau it was learned that all was quiet in that neighbourhood. At Samarai the prison was clean, comfortable, and in good order, and the prisoners were engaged in filling up the swamp. A slip suitable for trading vessels was being built, and some new buildings were in progress, all the result of private enterprise.

The Rev. Mr. Abel contemplated stationing a teacher at Samarai, *and of founding* an industrial settlement on the mainland for past pupils of the Kwato school.

At Nivani, the Government Station for the Louisiades, a good weatherboard house had been finished for the Resident Magistrate, and the other necessary buildings had been constructed.

At Panaietti a handsome church had been built by the Rev. Mr. Fellowes, and the people of the Island were fast coming under the influence of the Mission.

At Griffin Point, on Sudest Island, there was the very unusual occurrence of a criminal charge against a European before the Central Court. In this instance the accused was acquitted. Several questions raised by the Europeans there were discussed and dealt with, and a few complaints attended to. The relations between the Europeans and natives were good. A Justice of the Peace was appointed for the island. On the south side of Sudest certain natives charged with having committed crimes, or of being accomplices, were arrested and tried, practically completing all outstanding cases of the kind on this island.

It was found at Rossel Island that a considerable number of the coast natives collected a few articles of native produce for European traders. All North Coast villages were visited as far as the east end of the island, and were perfectly quiet and friendly. A rough survey, but sufficient for practical purposes, was made by Captain Jones of the harbour of Pennegwa, at the east end of Rossel Island; and observations were made at Loa (Adele) Island. There was no European resident on Rossel Island.

At Ware (Teste Island) the only matter causing trouble—a case of adultery— was dealt with.

15. The Island of Nuakata was examined in August. It has excellent anchorage and a considerable population, but poor soil. The people are quiet and peaceful. A suitable man was appointed policeman for the island. All coast villages were touched at from Cape Karitahua, the most southerly point of Duau, round the west coast as far as Dobu. On the south coast they were very friendly towards the Government—a feeling that was largely owing to the fact that some of their men were members of the constabulary.

It became known on this tour that there are hot and boiling springs at Waipoiana, at the foot of Mount Sobia. The villagers on Sewa Harbour were quiet and well-disposed, some of the men desiring to enter the constabulary force.

An understanding was come to with the Bakera people, many of whom had been leading wild and irregular lives ever since the murder of the trader Morro there two years before, by which they should settle down and assist the constabulary to secure the principals.

The Wesleyan teacher of Sikiruku, on Fergusson Island, was met on Sunday performing a round of regular services on the

adjacent coast of Duau. He had a circle of places round his permanent establishment at which he holds service every Sunday. By this arrangement these teachers are creating a wide circle of influence. The natives of Sikiruku and Begasse had greatly improved in demeanour. The teacher at the former place had about 200 hearers; the teacher at the latter some 500, in addition to which he occasionally has nearly 200 bushmen. A Fijian teacher at Baiio had about 300 hearers.

Under the firm discipline practised at Dobu in the schools and services established there very extraordinary progress has been made. The teachers were gaining a very beneficial influence on the coast of Fergusson east of Baiio, at Nekumaru, and in the provincial villages of Dobu. Churches had been built, and the tribes were settling down to quiet and regular lives.

At Yakuta Island they were peaceful and prosperous, and the same could be said of the island of Gawa. An effort of the constabulary to arrest two evil-doers on Murua was not successful.

At Nada, where it is not difficult to maintain the good order established, a new chief was appointed. While the steamer was anchored at Wavepu Bay, west of Suloga Hill, an inspection was made of the long-sought quartzite quarries from which the banded stone is obtained that is so widely distributed in stone axes.

Advantage was taken of the fine weather to land on the coral island of Iwa. No anchorage could be discovered, but the interior of the island was found to be a depressed, thickly inhabited plateau, similar in shape and formation to the islands of Kitava, Gawa, and Kwaiwata. They had entered into trading relations with a European that visits them periodically.

The island of Kitava was in a satisfactory state. Visits were made to the Kiriwina villages of Wawera, Omaràkana, &c., where matters appeared to be fairly satisfactory. The inhabited islands of the Lusancy Group, so named by D'Entrecasteaux, were all called at, and their positions approximately ascertained. They are all small, and only some of them inhabited. They appear to be all coralline except three, which are volcanic. Their trading relations are chiefly with Kwaibwaga (Goodenough). The inhabitants are peaceful.

All the tribes on the east of Fergusson Island were next visited. Some of them were very shy, but none unfriendly. It was noticed to be customary in certain tribes at the foot of the northern range to carry a slab of mica to serve as a mirror, and it was thought this matter might be worth some attention from traders.

The bubbling springs near Cape Labillardiere were found, but they were cold and not of much interest. The adjacent coasts of Fergusson and Kwaibwaga were carefully traversed, and all natives met with were well-disposed.

16. At Wedau, on the north-east coast, a church was being opened by the Rev. C. King, head of the Anglican Mission. Nearly 300 natives were present, and behaved well, seeming to be

proud of the church, which they largely assisted to build. The Rev. C. King went with the party to visit the north-east coast. The principal chief of the Paiwa district was landed at home after undergoing a term of imprisonment, and was appointed rural constable for that neighbourhood. The coast was traversed by boat from Cape Nelson to the mouth of the Musa River, then found for the first time. There are no villages on the coast in that part of the country until Ketakerua Bay is reached, on which there are several of considerable size. These people were at first prepared for war, but soon became friendly. Their country is flat, low, and swampy at most places.

The natives of Oifabama and Eroro were reserved and suspicious, but there were no actual disagreements with them. There was, however, great difficulty in communicating with them, owing to complete ignorance of their or any language north of Collingwood Bay.

Gona (Halnicote) Bay was fully examined. The villagers were at first timid and prepared for hostilities, but peaceful relations were established and maintained, though they might have been disturbed by the numerous and thievish population. The country there is flat and low. Some of the men are of very powerful physique, they possess a great number of good canoes, but they do not appear to use them for sailing. Just north of Gona Bay, friendly relations were opened with the natives living near the mouth of Kumusi River. There is no village close to the river there. Five or six miles north of the Kumusi a courteous tribe was visited, whose village is only sufficiently far from the beach to be out of sight from the sea. Women and children were the first to approach and meet the party.

The steamer took up a good anchorage in Douglas Harbour, a mile or so south of Mitre Rock, and observations were made at the rock itself for position.

The mouths of the Mambare River were next found and the position of one of the mouths obtained; and a halt was made at the mouth of the smaller Ikore River, which was found to enter the sea in German territory.

On the return journey all the tribes at the foot of Mount Trafalgar and in Collingwood Bay were visited, and friendly trading had with each, though on our approach several of them turned out armed. All the tribes in the vicinity of Philips Harbour came and visited the steamer when at anchor there.

17. At the end of December a tour of inspection was made to the west of Port Moresby which extended as far as the Purari delta. At Orokolo the people were holding high festival because some of them had successfully and by stealth murdered three of the Iare tribe. The Purari was flooded, and there was very great difficulty in ascending it beyond the Bevan Rapid. No natives were met with until the Aure, the first considerable branch, was reached, at about four-score miles from the sea. There a number of men of the Epai tribe were seen; they were obtaining trees for

canoes. The Aure was navigable for only two or three miles, at which distance it comes over rapids that are inaccessible to boats. It lies between rugged sandstone mountains. The Purari was ascended by the steam launch to something over 120 miles from the sea. The current was extremely strong and the ascent very difficult. The river, as soon as it meets the great sandstone main range, turns away to the west, a course it pursues as far as it has as yet been followed.

Traces of natives, but no actual settlement were seen before the highest point attained by the steamer was reached. The presence of the party was discovered by natives at that point, but they hurriedly continued their journey up stream to alarm their tribe. The journey was continued up the river four days in the river boat alone beyond the point at which the steamer had to be left. The boat could not make more than two or three miles a day. At the highest point reached there was settled a tribe called Biróe. These were naturally greatly surprised, and instinctively kept on strict guard. They very successfully hid themselves away, and left no trace of their presence, until they suddenly struck the war-drum and yelled their war-cry. After much preliminary trouble, friendly relations at close quarters were entered into. They are evidently of the Papuan family, and speak a dialect containing root and common words met with elsewhere in the Possession. They cultivate tobacco, sweet potatoes, and bananas.

There was practically very little level land on the Purari after it first entered the hilly zone until the neighbourhood of Biróe was reached, and there was little sago. What small areas of flat land did exist were all cut up by deep gullies formed by violent floods in the river. The whole district is of sandstone formation, and is well wooded. The Purari is more than one-third, but less than half the size of the Fly River. It is the second largest river in the Possession.

In descending the river the presence of coal was detected at Abukiru Island. The analyses given in the appended report by Mr. Jack* show that the coal is of excellent quality. There has been so far no opportunity of making a proper examination of the district. Our knowledge at present is confined to this: That there is a large sandstone area there, and that it contains good coal.

Some progress was made in committing the Maipua language to writing.

A night was spent at the village of Iare on the Purari delta. They were friendly, and were warned against taking revenge on the Orokolo tribe, who, they were told, would be dealt with by the Government. The population is great, and lives almost entirely on sago.

The ground on which their houses stand is in many instances below the level of spring tides.

* Not printed.

A night was then spent at the village of Koriki. There is a large population there, and they were not familiar with Europeans. At first threatening and friendly in turn, they soon became thievish and insolent, and there was very great difficulty in staving off hostilities until next morning. At least 200 bowmen manned the banks of the river below, and a like number above, the village, occupying each side so that the party must pass along between the two long files a short half-bowshot from each. They were successfully dispersed by rifle fire, and the party extricated itself without sustaining any casualty.

A few days later a visit was paid to the large neighbouring village of Maipua. This community was well warned beforehand that if any of them lifted a bow it would be regarded as the commencement of hostilities. They received the party very quietly, all arms having been put away out of sight. They professed their willingness to receive a teacher, and to build a church; and they supplied three recruits for the constabulary. At Orokolo, the local name of which is Havida, the tribe received the option of fighting or of surrendering those that had murdered the three Iare people. After due deliberation they gave up all, save one, that had fled; they also sent three young men into the constabulary.

18. At the end of February a tour of inspection of the north-east coast was begun. Carriers and interpreters for inland travelling were engaged at Taupota, Wedau, and Paiwa. The coast line was traversed from Ipote to Dako (Fir-tree Point) by boat. The inland party were landed on the Mobiri Creek, and were conducted to near the foot of Mount Maneáo. At first the numerous natives of the district were timid and suspicious, but soon became friendly and rendered valuable assistance. The party successfully established friendly relations with a large number of new tribes, and made also valuable collections.

Further observations were made at the mouth of the Ikore River, which confirmed those made formerly, and placed that spot nearly a mile and a-half inside German territory: the natives there were at first friendly, but became thievish, and then put on an unfriendly aspect. As soon as it was clear that the mouth of the river was outside British New Guinea it was left, although it appears that the river enters the Possession within a very few miles of the sea. A camp was then formed at the north-west mouth of the Mambare River (the Clyde of the charts), and the ascent of that river was begun from that point. A guard with spare stores was left at the mouth of the river. Villages were met with five or six miles from the sea. The people were greatly alarmed at first and prepared to fight, but eventually friendly approaches were made by two men. Many extensive sago-fields and some unoccupied good alluvial land were passed the first day. Some large villages were reached at something over a score of miles from the sea. The hostile demonstrations of the natives there, as

in all other villages, were soon set aside. It was not the outcome of a warlike disposition, but the result of timidity and suspicion.

The unmarried women were naked, and the men loaded with native jewellery. The peculiar characteristic of the men was that as soon as it was clear that we had not come for the purpose of making war they danced and sang. At several of the villages they put up a taboo to keep us from landing. A considerable number of villages was passed before the launch had made two score of miles beyond which she could not ascend the rapids. The journey was continued by boat for about a dozen miles more, when rapids were met with up which it was not advisable to take a boat. In the last 20 miles there were no villages, and the river passed between low hills for the last half-score of miles. Its bed contained a great variety of stones, including large boulders of quartz containing much iron pyrites. Traces of gold were found. It seemed strange that although the district contained great sago fields, the natives hardly used it; but make extensive gardens of taro, &c., from which they chiefly live. They had no tobacco plant, no papaya, and no pumpkin. They cook in rude pottery. Some good land could be had on this river for settlement.

Additional observations were made at Mitre Rock, which again put it nearly three miles inside British territory.

Some 10 or 12 miles of the Ope River were examined by the steam launch. This small stream opens into the sea in front of Gumboro Hill, a conspicuous landmark as far down the coast as as it can be seen. There are many small villages on and near the Ope, all of whom were friendly and willing to barter. The Ope is a low country river, traversing swampy land, and receiving no branches from the main central range of mountains.

The Kumusi River was next examined. A guard was left at the mouth of the river with spare stores, some of which, however, the natives were able to steal, in spite of the vigilance of the Papuan guard. There are many gardens on the banks of this river from three to seven or eight miles from the sea; but after that they disappear, the country being low and swampy, with many fine fields of sago trees. Native settlement is sparse on the lower part of the river. The first hill was nearly three dozen miles from the sea, and was composed of lava.

At the highest point reached by the launch there were fine plateaus of alluvial forest land, and the neighbouring country composed of low rolling hills, with fine valleys between. The sun was very hot during the day, but soon after dark it became cool, and before morning there was a cold breeze from the great mountain range.

The launch got aground in keeping out of the current and could not be got off until the river rose during the night. Many natives soon came round the launch, all prepared to fight on the spot, but friendly relations were established. The Kumusi is clearly, like the Mambare, a stream that has its rise in the main

central range of mountains. In descending the river the steam launch struck a concealed "snag," and sank in deep water and was lost.

A few days afterwards the Basari Creek was examined for a few miles. There are no villages on the part of it seen by the party, but it has some good forest land about three miles from the sea. It rises on the Hydrographer Range of mountains. A large tribe was come into contact with there. They seemed to live somewhere not far from the coast. They became friendly, and appeared in great numbers—men, women, and children—next day.

It was found that a considerable creek opens into the sea at Cape Sudest. It is called Tambokoro, and comes from Hydrographer Range.

From a camp formed at the mouth of the Kevoto Creek, it and the Umunda Creek were examined. The country on them is so low and wet as to be worthless. The natives in their vicinity were very friendly.

Some three dozen miles of the Musa River were examined by boat. At that distance the country was beginning to lose the character of swamp it had so far kept. Several small villages were passed, with all of which a good footing was established. It is a fine stream, and no doubt has its rise on the main range of mountains. A party at the same time examined part of the foot of Mount Victory on its north face, and established relations with a considerable tribe there. They found the country very rough. The people in the vicinity of Phillips' Harbour were again visited, and the party examining Maneao were met and removed. They had successfully executed their task.

19. In the middle of April the prisoners and the prison were inspected at Samarai. All the Port Moresby prisoners were there then, occupied in reclaiming the swamp. Their condition was satisfactory and the work making fair progress. The communities at East Cape and at Dobu were all quiet and peaceable. A number of carriers were engaged at Dobu for transport on the island of Kwaibwaga, the upper lands of which were examined. The tribes met with became friendly. The pearl fishery was being actively prosecuted at the Kiriwina Group, and no native disturbances were reported there. All pearls were being procured by natives and sold to traders. The villages of Gawa Island were inspected, and all seem to be quiet and prosperous. The village constable at Omdamudu, on Murua, had steadily extended his authority and influence, but an effort to arrest an old offender in the interior miscarried. The curious Veneina (Cannac) rock was examined; and all outstanding administrative business at Nada was disposed of. On the east side of Fergusson Island a short visit showed all to be quiet there.

At Ware Island the people were busy erecting a new church. They are a settled, industrious community. At Sudest Island a quartz reef was examined which seemed to contain payable gold.

The relations between Europeans and natives appeared to be good. The natives were said to be actively prosecuting the gold-washing industry on their own account. Yela (Rossel) Island was gone round in the whaleboat, and no disturbance was met with; but an inter-tribal fight, the investigation of which will occupy some time on the spot, was reported at Yongga Bay. A sitting of the Central Court was held there. At Misima there did not appear to be any serious matter to deal with. There are only two village constables on the island. All was quiet and orderly in their districts; but the attitude of two or three tribes on the north side was not satisfactory, showing as it did much suspicion of the Government.

20. In the end of April a first visit was made to Darava, in Table Bay. A party was despatched inland, opposite Mairu Island, to open communication with the mountain tribes in that vicinity. They were absent two weeks and established friendly intercourse with many villages. Not far from the sea they found some fine flats of unoccupied rich lands, which are said to be fit for sugar cultivation. While we were camped at Darava, and after satisfactory relations had been established with all the people that had assembled for a great festival there, a descent was made by a federation of some two dozen hill villages on the coast people. Diverted from Darava, they during the night surrounded the coast village of Magauoo and killed, it was said, over 30 people. They were followed up by the constabulary among their own hills, but declined a general pitched battle, taking to the bush in small parties. The ringleaders were forced, by public opinion, to meet the constabulary in flying skirmish with what following they could muster, and some of them have lost their lives. Several have been captured, but it will take some time to resettle the people in their villages. One could not, from their country, see any indication of native settlements between these tribes and the main range behind them, so that there may not be an inner zone to descend on these in turn.

The chief of Domara was, after a term of imprisonment, restored to his village. His demeanour and the conduct of his tribe appeared satisfactory. But they, too, have subsequently been in trouble from the descent on them of some hill tribe.

At the village of Eaula (near Cape Rodney of the charts) a suitable man was appointed Government chief.

Great improvement was observed at Vererupu. New and good houses have been built on an excellent site; and they have two very good village policemen. The next tribe inland is not behind them in police matters.

The nephew of the deceased chief of Aroma, Koapena, was appointed to succeed him in the headship of the community, this collateral succession being in accordance with the usage and traditions of the tribe. No disturbance had arisen in the district since the death of the old chief. The six village policemen seemed to be quite fit to maintain order in the neighbourhood, though it

has a population of 3,000 to 4,000. The chief policeman is now the most important authority in the place.

At Keapara a substantial and very handsome church, built by the Rev. W. Pearse, was inspected. At Kalo, Kamali, and Hula decided progress in the right direction was noted.

21. In the end of June a brief visit was made to the Mekeo district. The Father Superior was seriously ill at Ravao, and two or three other members of the mission were sick.

A new mission recently opened at Abiara by a Brother of the Sacred Heart Mission was making a very satisfactory start. At Bereina mission work and teaching are now in full operation; the people are quiet and orderly. At Inawi the Rev. Father Vitali has his mission in complete working order, and everything was satisfactory, with the exception of a bigamy by the principal chief. All the principal chiefs of the district assembled at the Government station to report to the Administrator. Each one brought a small present with him, consisting of food, all of which they consumed before they left. The whole district was perfectly quiet and peaceful. Cemetery burial is now warmly supported by the Sacred Heart Mission; and two members of that body, a brother and a sister, have been interred in the village cemeteries of Yeku and Inawi. The Government station was in a creditable condition; most of the imported economic plants were doing well, but the want of a resident overseer was apparent. The Rev. H. Dauncey is now permanently stationed at the London Missionary Society settlement at Delena.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS.

22. The Resident Magistrate for the Western Division has noted a marked improvement in the moral and social conduct of the natives under his control. The record of crime was heavier than before, which means that such things are becoming better known. He was successful in compelling the Doropotamurubi tribe to surrender some of their number implicated in murder. One of the points in which Mr. Hely has been most successful is the training of the village constables. He now manages to have the greater part of the police work done by them; he has also maintained very good discipline in the constabulary detachment stationed at Daru under his orders.

23. The Resident Magistrate for the Central Division has not, on account of prolonged absence from ill-health, been able to supply an exhaustive report. He could not visit the western villages, but this was done by the Government Agent of Mekeo; and those accused of crime were then dealt with. Mr. Lawes enumerates the onslaughts made by hill tribes, and draws attention to the rapid progress of the coast tribes as loyal subjects of the Queen. He points out also the greatly extended trading cruises of coast tribes.

24. The Government Agent of Mekeo is able to report that in his populous district no serious crimes were committed during the year, and that the people now travel long journeys without carrying arms. The inland tribes visited last year by the Government Agent give no trouble there, but, on the contrary, have come in numbers to pay friendly visits to Mekeo tribes. The difficulty of dealing with house burials he regards as practically at an end. The number of the village constables has been increased, but no native has been appointed a magistrate there. A considerable number of valuable economic plants are doing well at the station. The Gros Michel banana, inported from the West Indies, has proved a success in this country, and is being distributed. Mr. Kowald appreciates the work of the Sacred Heart Mission in his district, the members of which work hand in hand with him. He draws attention to the deaths from snake-bite.

25. As Mr. Graham was acting as Resident Magistrate for only a very short time in the Louisiades, his report is very brief. At the Government station 750 cocoanuts were planted, and some 14 acres of land cleared. He reports that about a score of diggers were on Misima, some of them not making a living; there are a few more on Sudest Island than on Misima, and they have better prospects.

26. Mr. English, Government Agent for the Rigo district, has furnished a very interesting report. He is gratified by the greatly improved moral condition of his district, and this amelioration is extending to the inland tribes behind the Rigo country. The planting of cocoanuts has been successfully pushed. Mr. English thinks that over 60,000 have been planted within one day's ride of the Government station. He mentions also two cocoanut plantations worked by Europeans, containing respectively 16,000 and 7,000 young plants, all doing well. Only two cases of village burial came under notice during the year.

Four cases of murder, committed in the mountains, remained for investigation. Mr. English was travelling 216 days during the year. A large number of imported valuable plants are doing well at the station. Useful imformation will be found in this report dealing with the inner life of the people, and well worth perusal.

27. Mr. R. J. Kennedy, Magistrate for native matters in the Eastern Division, supplies a short report on the district. He points out that the chiefs had little or no real power. A number of them come to the station once a week to report.

Sorcery, formerly troublesome in the district, has had a rude shock from the imprisonment of some of the sorcerers. On Tauwara there were vexatious inter-tribal disputes as to the boundaries of land. He finds that the influence of the Government has extended in all directions; but he complains of the bad and indifferent houses of the natives. In the hill villages, burials regulations are not, as a rule, enforced. The planting of cocoanuts

by the natives is being pushed on successfully, and fortunately the Papuan proprietor begins in some places to look on this as making a provision for the future. The natives prefer engaging to work for short terms, and do not hesitate to complain to a Government officer if they consider themselves ill-used. But as a matter of fact native employees are generally indulgently treated by their employers.

28. Mr. David White, an intelligent and observant man, who has resided some five or six years on Sudest, supplies an interesting report on that island. He points out that they have there no wet and dry season, but have heavy rains all the year round. The women have the chief share of the work of cultivating the soil. The villages are kept scrupulously clean.

One of the most interesting points mentioned by Mr. White is the occurrence of totemism on the Sudest Island. He states that it exists, follows the maternal and not the paternal side, and that people of the same totem do not intermarry. This matter requires further investigation. Instances are known in the D'Entrecasteaux Group and in Mekeo, of marriage being considered irregular if contracted into the mother's family, but no trace of totemism has ever been found there or elsewhere outside of Sudest. Natives of Yela (Rossell) say they never heard of it, and many intelligent natives of the mainland declare that the idea is quite new to them. There can be no doubt that Mr. White is correct in what he relates as to the need for enforcement of the Burial Regulation on Sudest. The attention of the Resident Magistrate has been drawn to this matter. It should have been dealt with long ago. The custom of peeling off and keeping the epidermis of the corpse is very curious when considered side by side with the practice, now suppressed, in the Rigo district, of peeling off the epidermis to discover the person that had caused the death of the deceased.

Mr. White, who is a trader and must be well qualified to speak on the subject, says the boys are now able and willing to work in the gullies for gold with which to purchase things they want. They have in this way, and from fear of punishment, ceased to steal.

29. The report by Mr. Guise on the work done by the party he conducted to the northern range called Maneáo gives a graphic description of inland travelling in New Guinea. This mountain is a part of the so-called Hornby Range, the eastern end of the chain that has its highest points in the peaks of Goropu. The latter is so steep and rugged that its ascent will be attended with very great physical difficulty. It will be noticed that, although Mr. Guise and his party were engaged in country entirely new to Europeans, they had no collision with the native inhabitants, and had no opposition from them beyond the passive resistance presented at the first entry of their district. One of the principal objects was to find, if possible, the source of all the jade used by the natives as stone axes. It is now made highly probable that it all comes from the Maneáo district, and finds its way in barter

across the great central range to Cloudy Bay. The vicinity of its origin has been pointed out, but the spot itself has not been examined yet. There is, however, reason to believe that jade occurs on Goropu as well as on Maneáo, as small fragments of the surface jade were found both in the Kwagila and Dako streams. A more extended search will have to be made for the source of this mineral, which may be of considerable commercial value.

NATIVE LAND TENURE.

30. Mr. Hely reports on the land tenure of the Masingara tribe. It is of special interest in that district, because they appear to be the original owners of all the soil now occupied by certain other tribes whose tenure was reported on last year. They never heard of their ancestors having lived elsewhere, and do not consider the other tribes near them to be proprietors of the soil. Land descends lineally, the lands being divided equally among the children; so that a woman can own land until she marries; then it passes to the males of her family, the children belonging to the father's side. Sago and fruit trees bear the private mark of the owner. Fencing is communal, but planting individual. House-building is communal.

31. Mr. English states that in the Humeni and Saboia tribes land is held generally by the individual. It descends to the eldest son, but may be divided among all the children equally. It appears that the land cannot pass out of the tribe.

The tenure of the Kwaipo tribe seems to be exactly similar.

In the Tupuseleia tribe, virgin forest is common land, and it becomes private property when cleared and used as such. Women never own land; it descends lineally. Clearing land is communal, and planting is individual. The sago trees belong to the man that plants them.

32. Captain Hennessy's Report on the Land Tenure of the Wagawaga tribe, on Tauwara, shows that land there is held on individual ownership, can be held by women, and descends both lineally and collaterally. Both selling and leasing land is known to this tribe. Land is also given in compensation to an aggrieved person. Children belong to the woman's tribe, and the husband marrying her lives in her tribe. A person can bequeath his land to whom he pleases. If not bequeathed it passes to the owner's brother.

THE TABU.

33. On the interesting question of the custom of the tabu as practised in the Possession, valuable information has been supplied from several quarters.

The Rev. Copland King reports on it in the district of Wedau. There when a man dies, all the cocoanuts in his village are tabued

for the feasts connected with his decease. A man may tabu his cocoanuts to all persons except himself; they may be forbidden to the community by the chief men by blowing the conch-shell. Women also tabu certain garden produce; fishing is also forbidden at times.

They have also tabus that are put on by incantations, which are paid for, being the vested interest and private property of the individual that knows, puts on, and takes off the charm. The consequence of breaking the charmed tabu is bodily sickness of some kind.

The Rev. W. Bromilow mentions two kinds of tabu as being in use at Dobu, the tabu of custom and the tabu of the sorcerer. The professional wizard working for hire imposes the latter, and he only can remove it; the penalty of breaking it is sickness. Many very interesting and important examples of the tabu of custom are enumerated, such as that of marrying into a mother's village, and of being tabu for having eaten of a dead body from the grave. It is also forbidden to name the dead.

Mr. English shows that the tabu is used in the Rigo district to ensure a full supply of food at the great feasts. For this purpose the prohibition is applied only to certain gardens. It is generally imposed by the chief.

Mr. R. Kennedy mentions among the tabus of custom that a native in some places cannot marry a woman of his own village, or a woman from his own side of a line in the village. To such an extent is the tabu of the name of the deceased carried that one cannot inform a person orally of the death of a relative; to do so would be resented as a personal injury.

Mr. R. Guise says that all tabus imposed at Hood Peninsula are, with the exception of the tabu on young cocoanuts on indications of an approaching famine, put on for the purpose of providing food for feasts. The punishment for breaking this is purely of the material and practical kind—fines in kind and personal chastisement.

Captain Hennessy shows that the charmed tabu is exercised at Wagawaga, and that the evil effects on a person breaking it can be removed by confession and an antidote.

It appears to be the case that, over a great part of the country, the power of putting on the charmed tabu, which entails dire material consequences (due to magic) on the person that breaks it, is put on by the hereditary sorcerer, who obtains his powers by inheritance or by purchase, and who retains a strict, literally exclusive, right to his knowledge. He works for hire, and as he alone can impose the tabu, so also he only can remove it.

NATIVE DIALECTS.

34. Three native dialects will be found in the Appendix.* The very copious vocabulary of the Kabadi language has been drawn

* Not printed.

up by Mr. Green. As might be expected, it is very nearly related to the Motuan language.

Of the other two dialects, the vocabulary of Maipua will be the more useful, on account of the large number of people to whom it is known. It appears to be the language of all the tribes on the Purari Delta. It supplies the link that is wanting to connect the Central dialects with that of the Iasa (Kiwai) people. Fortunately, it is easy to understand, to write, and to speak. It can, therefore, be reduced to a useful form without great labour.

It has been quite otherwise with the language of Yela (Rossel Island). This dialect is by far the most intractable that has been met with in the Possession. It has a peculiar and special philological interest by reason of the position of the place, at the extreme south-east end of the islands of New Guinea, being little further from the Solomon Islands than from the Papuan mainland. The Yela people have, further, never until now intermarried with those of any other island. Two difficulties meet one at the outset; many of them speak with a muffled intonation that is exasperating to the orthographist, and they use sounds that cannot be expressed by any combination of letters in the English alphabet. To this may be added the fact that hardly any two men ever pronounce a word the same way. This vocabulary has been now written out four times, and there is wide dissimilarity between any two of the vocabularies. The last edition should for several reasons be the best, and it is what is now printed. It is, however, tolerably plain that five or six of the first ten numerals of this language in flux are the same words, but generally more or less disguised, as the same numbers in Polynesian languages. In others the root word appears in the simplest form, as, for example, the word "Ma" instead of "Tama" for father. In others the muffling process disguises a common word which may not at first be recognised, as "Mbwa" for "Wai." The heaping together of consonants is also remarkable. The termination "Ngiri" to many or most active verbs is noteworthy, but at times it becomes a prefix. Occasionally the widely distributed name for common objects is found to be substituted by entirely new forms; thus the words for "dead," "Ebuono," and for "butterfly," "Pyaga," cannot apparently be connected with "Mate" and "Pepe," which in some form or other are met with in scores of dialects between Hawaii and Maipua. It would appear that every village on Yela uses their language as they please. In all cases the words are given as nearly as possible as pronounced in the different places at which they were written. It seems doubtful that the differences are dialectic.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

35. The service sustained a severe loss during the year by the death of an excellent officer, Mr. Dennis Gleeson, Head Gaoler and Superintendent of Works. Mr. Gleeson maintained first-rate

order and discipline, and being an extremely kind-hearted man he soon gained great influence over the natives in his charge. He made the prison as much a training institution or reformatory as was possible under the circumstances. He was a most loyal and devoted officer, giving himself up entirely to the faithful discharge of his responsible duties. The high regard entertained for him by the natives was shown by the fact that they put on mourning for him in native fashion as if he had been one of themselves. Mr. Gleeson was succeeded by Mr. W. T. Campbell, formerly Resident Magistrate for the Louisiades.

A port of entry was opened at Daru, the Government Station in the Western Division, and Mr. De Lange has been temporarily employed as an extra officer there. Mr. W. Palmer was compelled, on health considerations, to retire from his appointment as Commandant. It is intended that Mr. Butterworth be appointed to the permanent office.

Mr. John Mahony was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the island of Sudest.

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PUBLIC WORKS.

36. A very suitable new vessel of about 20 tons was obtained for the use of the Resident Magistrate in the Central District, which allowed the lugger formerly there to be put at the disposal of the Magistrate for the Western Division. Extensive repairs were executed on the cutter for the Louisiade Division. The river launch "Ruby" was unfortunately lost in the Kumusi River. This vessel was insured.

Mr. Hely successfully removed the Government Station for the Western Division from Mabudauan to Daru Island. The latter is much more fertile and better suited for food-growing than Mabudauan, and has a vastly better harbour for shipping of all kinds. Mr. Hely economically effected the removal at little expense.

Several new buildings, including a thoroughly sound substantial prison, were put up at the Mekeo Station. These were built by Mr. Kowald, the Government Agent, at very little cost to the public.

About three-fourths of the work of building an excellent prison was performed by Mr. Graham at Nivani. When finished it will probably be the best prison in the Possession. Arrangements have been made for its completion by old prisoners and a Solomon Island employee, under the supervision of Mr. Butterworth.

37. The principal work of the year was in reclaiming the swamp at Samarai. It was really an undertaking beyond the resources of the Government, but it became absolutely necessary to fill it up or to remove the settlement to some other place.

The actual swamp area covered some nine and a-half acres, but the total ground to be covered by filling in was considerably greater than that. By the end of the year seven acres of the

swamp was filled up, which required the preparation, removal, and laying down of over 42,000 cubic yards of earth. The 13,000 yards still required will, for the most part, have to be transported for only a short distance. Much blasting has been required in procuring the materials required, and it is a matter for congratulation that no accident of any kind has so far occurred in connection with this. This great work has completely put a stop to road-making and planting cocoanuts by the prisoners. The work was considerably facilitated by the loan of iron rails kindly granted by the Premier of Queensland.

TRADE.

Imports.

38. The total of imports entered at Port Moresby, Samarai, and Daru, respectively, has been :—

Year.	Samaria.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888-89 - -	6,016	5,019	—	11,108
1889-90 - -	6,798	9,305	—	16,104
1890-91 - -	7,455	8,075	—	15,530
1891-92 - -	10,379	13,377	—	23,755
1892-93 - -	13,173	12,088	—	25,261
1893-94 - -	15,331	11,428	1,741	28,501

The principal items imported have been :—

—	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Food Stuffs - -	5,400	7,124	4,463	6,037	6,252	7,181
Drapery - -	1,185	1,392	1,457	2,133	2,918	2,687
Tobacco and Cigars	996	1,290	2,354	3,257	2,407	3,985
Hardware - -	927	1,123	1,535	2,677	2,828	3,162
Beverages - -	805	1,143	688	890	1,625	1,760
Clothes - -	550	190	255	705	496	315
Building Materials -	246	1,086	1,224	1,965	1,474	2,889
Other Articles -	999	2,756	3,554	6,091	7,261	6,522
Total - -	11,108	16,104	15,530	23,755	25,261	28,501

A considerable advance has been made on tobacco, which may be maintained in future, as trade with the natives and their employment increases; but they continue to show in certain places a decided tendency to demand something else than tobacco in payment. There is also a fair increase in hardware.

This heading is also chiefly affected by the payments made to natives. It is more likely than tobacco to be permanent in its expansion, because the number of natives requiring such articles will steadily grow, while none will cease to require hardware. The quantity of building materials imported was also considerably greater.

Exports.

The total value of exports, as entered at the Custom House, has been :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888-89 - -	5,071	871	—	5,943
1889-90 - -	5,458	997	—	6,455
1890-91 - -	7,678	755	—	8,134
1891-92 - -	8,099	3,190	—	11,289
1892-93 - -	6,290	8,675	—	14,966
1893-94 - -	9,555	3,542	1,854	14,952

The most valuable export, according to the returns, was gold, valued at 3,906*l.* This, of course, does not show the total amount of the metal obtained, but represents the quantity entered outwards at Samarai. For the last three years the numbers of the diggers and the amount of gold entered outwards has been nearly stationary. It has fluctuated as below :—

Gold entered at the Custom House.

—	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.
Ounces - -	3,850	3,470	2,426	1,235	582	1,128
Value - -	£14,387	£12,440	£8,371	£4,322	£2,236	£3,906

The future of gold will depend on the discovery of new fields, and on the value and development of the reefs on Sudest.

Next to gold comes pearl-shell valued at 3,366*l.*

Copra was exported to the value of 2,885*l.* The exports of this article have been :—

1888-89	- -	76	tons	valued at	550*l.*
1889-90	- -	43	,,	,,	250*l.*
1890-91	- -	198	,,	,,	[1,433*l.*
1891-92	- -	340	,,	,,	2,084*l.*
1892-93	- -	194	,,	,,	1,159*l.*
1893-94	- -	450	,,	,,	2,885*l.*

Of sandalwood, 321 tons were sent away, valued at 1,896*l.* It appears there is a considerably quantity of this product in the country, but it seems to suffer from great market fluctuations.

The value of the béche-de-mer exported was entered at 1,714*l.* a small advance in quantity and value on last year.

By far the most valuable export of the year was that of pearls. These figure in the returns for only two packages, valued at 250*l.* At Cooktown four packages were entered as coming from the Possession and valued at 1,250*l.*; but this is very far from being the whole value of the pearls exported, which was probably about 8,000*l.* or 10,000*l.* These are found chiefly in the Kiriwina Group, but a few are procured elsewhere. They are obtained by the natives, and are sold to traders. Many of these pearls are of tints that are said to command a high price in the market.

There are several small exports that require to be worked up, but most of them require a certain amount of practical knowledge, such as the native ginger, pronounced to be of high market value; rubber, of which there appears to be large quantities, fit to command a high price. It is hoped that before long, coal, jade, sago, &c., may be added to the list.

The total amount of the trade for the year amounted to:—

	£
Imports - - - - -	28,501
Exports - - - - -	14,952
Total - - - -	£43,453

Shipping.

39. The shipping entered inwards and outwards was wholly British.

The total number of foreign-going vessels entered inwards was 35, of 3,872 tons; the entries outwards were 27 vessels, of 2,791 tons.

The bi-monthly trips of the subsided mail service have been regularly and satisfactorily performed, and have been found to be a decided public advantage.

Postal.

40. Postal business up to the end of June, 1894, has been as under:—

Article.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.
Letters received - - -	2,366	3,166	2,664	4,393	4,679	6,280
Letters despatched - -	2,587	2,586	2,191	3,917	4,011	5,297
Packets received - -	93	111	142	45	230	157
Packets despatched - -	98	84	88	78	427	467
Newspapers received - -	4,071	6,815	6,042	8,505	6,749	8,131
Newspapers despatched -	574	500	468	756	276	240

FINANCE.

Revenue.

41. The amount of revenue paid into the Queensland Treasury by the Possession during the year was 5,866*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* It is compared below with that of preceding year:—

Items.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs Dues	2,419	2,893	2,525	4,428	3,757	5,067
Gold Field Receipts	187	20	23	24	23	54
Fees	2	4	4	10	157	115
Fines	25	41	46	34	24	22
Licenses	2	11	21	136	106	317
Miscellaneous	42	44	53	149	535	291
Total £	2,679	3,015	2,673	4,783	4,604	5,866

Expenditure.

42. The full sum of 15,000*l.* available for the ordinary Administrative Services of the year was expended. The actual expenditure is classified and compared as follows with that of previous years:—

Head of Expenditure.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Civil List Salaries	2,633	3,300	3,290	3,300	3,300	3,300
Other Salaries	1,796	2,381	3,476	3,559	3,707	3,479
Vessels and Boats	2,747	2,564	2,938	2,993	1,600	1,308
Allowances	1,206	2,548	1,500	1,356	1,748	1,454
Buildings and Works	185	1,144	979	780	872	435
Agriculture	2	137	353	335	146	203
Mail Service	445	—	—	—	450	750
Miscellaneous	1,662	2,898	2,459	2,675	3,174	4,071
Total £	10,769	14,975	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000

S.S. "Merrie England."

43. During the year ending the 30th June last the "Merrie England" ran 15,305 miles, and consumed 711 tons of coal, making an average distance of 21·5 miles for each ton of coal.

The financial year of the steamer ends with the 31st March. The gross total expenditure for the twelve months was 7,643*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* Of this, 1,312*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* was met by refunds and earnings, leaving a net expenditure of 6,330*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* The Imperial Government provided 4,000*l.* and the three contributing Colonies 1,000*l.* each for the steamer's maintenance.

The steam launch was condemned during the year, and was sold for 20*l.* The purchase of another one was delayed in the hope of being able to obtain a new launch advantageously; and

the balance available for this purpose will, it is hoped, be carried forward with this object. It amounts to 544*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*

PRISONS.

44. In the Western Division thirty-four prisoners were on the register during the year; of these nineteen remained at the end of June. Eight long-sentenced prisoners were sent west to assist in planting food and in working at the station. Some of these were men that would probably try to escape from other prisons, but who could not get home from Daru.

Sixteen prisoners were received into the Rigo gaol on sentences imposed under Native Regulations.

At the close of the year there were 100 prisoners in the two chief gaols of the Possession; all except one were at Samarai employed on swamp reclamation. In consideration of the unhealthy nature of the work, some addition to the ordinary ration is made while the men are at swamp work. It is gratifying to be able to record that no European was included in the above figures. The average on the sick list has been from about two to four per centum. There were two deaths, one an old man who was long ailing, and another by a fall from a cocoanut tree. No serious prison offences were committed. In addition to the ordinary warders there has been a prison guard of four or five of the armed constabulary.

The conduct of the prisoners has varied greatly, the old prisoners being, in many cases, very trustworthy men. They several times reported the intention of newer hands to make their escape. In one case they informed Mr. English that a new man was trying to cut his leg-irons with a tomahawk; but before reporting this, they took the law into their own hands and beat him and cast him into a ditch for bringing discredit on the prisoners. Two prisoners reported at the Mekeo Station the preparations being made by a third one to effect his escape. In doubtful cases the prisoner is sent to the prison furthest from his home.

MISSION WORK.

45. The Wesleyan Mission has made very marked progress during the year. The Gospel of Mark has been translated by the Rev. Mr. Fellowes into the Panaietti language, and is already in print. There is a good school on that island. The teachers will find the natives of Misima very stiff-necked, but they have already made some progress there. The effect of difficulty and obstruction on the members of this mission is simply to call forth greater effort. This quality will be in requisition before Misima is Christianised. The Louisiade mission district will sooner or later find itself obliged to grow its own food, for it cannot always purchase it in that neighbourhood at any price.

At Dobu, also, extraordinary results have been achieved. Mrs. Bromilow and the two lay Sisters have taught with great industry and perseverance, and with remarkable success. They

have already a sewing class that could hold its own with that of any ordinary European village. They were strengthened by the addition of a trained nurse sister. This is a new effort in aboriginal missions in this part of the world—one that shows very clearly the progressive character of the mission and the thoroughness with which their work is prosecuted. There is good reason for believing that this new move will be crowned with success. Mr. Bromilow has acted so far in his own district on the principle of concentration, keeping his teachers so near that they are never beyond supervision. In this way less ground is occupied; but the work accomplished is much more searching, and a relatively much greater amount of teaching is done by each man, as it is incumbent on them to hold services in circles of villages round their stations.

The way has been cleared for opening a mission on the important and populous island of Kiriwina.

Circumstances did not admit of a personal inspection of the work of the Rev. Mr. Field, in the Engineer Group; but opportunities were not wanting of seeing its beneficial results on natives met with.

46. The Anglican mission on the north-east coast still retains its initiatory character. The Rev. Mr. King has had no missionary assistance, and under the circumstances has done all he could in his isolated position. This report shows elsewhere very clearly that there are great and populous districts in the large area that has been set apart as the field of this mission. The fine rivers traversing it from the great central range of mountains afford ready access to numerous communities of special promise and interest; but the resources of the mission seem to be totally inadequate for dealing with these. Mr. King has mastered the language of the people near him; he is well acquainted with the habits and peculiarities of the natives he comes into contact with; and by teaching in church and school, and by the example of his own life, he has greatly influenced those within his reach. His position is not an enviable one, at the head of a mission provided with an excellent headquarters, capable of accommodating the necessary staff, with an excellent vessel and good boats, with a unique mission field, and practically without a staff. Mr. King requires half-a-dozen European missionaries and at least two score of coloured teachers. The field can never be occupied without the latter, and they cannot be set to work until they are trained. It does not appear that this training has been commenced, or the men even obtained. Mr. King has scholars now, natives of the district, but not a few years must elapse before they can undertake teaching. He found in them the raw material of the savage, and it requires long and patient labour to convert those into Christian teachers. It is understood that efforts will be put forth shortly to strengthen this mission. Clearly something must be done ere long for the thousands of natives on the north-east coast. That more has not been done is clearly not the fault of Mr. King.

47. A considerable amount of new ground was occupied by the London Missionary Society's Station at Kwato. The Rev. Mr. Abel is encouraging some of the young men in his district to form industrial settlements for the cultivation of cotton and such like commodities, an attempt that deserves every encouragement the Government can give to it.

During the year the Rev. Mr. Pearse saw finished at his head-quarters the best and handsomest church in the Possession. Even the building itself, mainly the production of the natives of the village, makes an impression on the people. His school and Mrs. Pearse's class maintain their high standard. The uncommon excellence of the village choirs in this district is very remarkable. Some Papuan teachers are doing good work there.

The Rev. Mr. Lawes has in hand the formation of a large central college, situated some thirty miles east of Port Moresby. This has a sufficient area of planting land connected with it to supply the necessary labour for keeping the students in good health and in touch with field work and native food. It is intended that young men trained in the several districts shall have a two or three last years' study at this establishment. It will have the public advantage of all teachers of this mission being able to speak one common language, Motuan. This is appreciated after passing out of the Wesleyan district where some of the teachers only speak Samoan or Tongan and the dialect in use at their own stations. The Rev. Mr. Dauncey is completing a permanent residence at Delena, some sixty miles west of Port Moresby. This will provide in future for the indispensable supervision and personal inspection required over the work of the teachers in that district.

It will be seen from Mr. Hely's report that mission work has not made so much progress in the West as could be desired. Taking into account the isolated position of the teachers, the numerous lawless and boisterous population they have had to live among, the work effected as far west as Orokolo has been surprisingly good. To thoroughly supervise and inspect the whole of the immense district intrusted to the Rev. Mr. Chalmers is greatly beyond the power of any one man. Clearly this want of constant supervision must of necessity have in its train a certain amount of inefficiency. The result of laborious toil and of a long tale of years of exposure to many vicissitudes told at last on the health of Mr. Chalmers and made it impossible for him to pay so many visits to his teachers as would otherwise have been the case. In previous reports attention has been called to the semi-nomadic character of the tribes on the Fly River. This is a real difficulty, probably connected with the swampy nature of the country they occupy, and it is to be feared that it will seriously interfere with mission work. There is no dislike to teachers among the people, but they do not choose to break their old semi-migratory habits.

48. The Sacred Heart Mission received a considerable accession of strength during the year, and, as a consequence of this, several new stations are being opened. The Rev. Dr Ginocchi, the

resident head of the mission, combines industrial teaching with religious and secular education. In connection with each station there will be sufficient land to grow the food required and to plant some economic product. The remarkably successful work of the Rev. Father Vitali has steadily progressed in the large Inawi tribe, and has not been without effect on neighbouring communities. He has several new missionaries of much promise near him now.

49. It seems that the time will soon come when a special effort will have to be made, more especially by the London Missionary Society, for work further inland. There are numerous great centres of native population towards the spurs of the central chain of mountains that are totally unprovided with teachers. Some of them are known to the Government, but many are not. It is very doubtful that these can ever be taught until European missionaries are stationed there permanently to train up inland natives to teach their own people. It may be possible for the missionaries and teachers of the Wesleyan Mission to be all stationed on or near the sea, because their islands are not of large size; but it is quite impossible that the other three missions can work their districts without having European missionaries stationed inland. The Anglican Mission has not reached the stage of development that raises the question, but it is quite otherwise with the London Missionary Society and the Sacred Heart. The central college, to be conducted by Mr. Lawes, is happily placed for tapping the inland country at that particular place; but even that will not be able, in all probability, to reach the most inland tribes there. At present all the missionaries of the Society are on the coast, and, as a matter of fact, several more are required there; but, in addition to those, a large number will be needed inland before the numerous tribes there are provided with a permanent system of teaching. The Sacred Heart Mission is pushing steadily towards the interior, and will soon meet the first hill tribes. Their stations now extend as far inward as the Government station, and sites have been acquired in villages to the foot of the Mekeo Range, but many tribes are already known to the Government several days' journey beyond that.

So far the colony has been very fortunate in the high character of its European missionaries. In no country have the ministers of so many different missions worked with greater harmony. This spirit of mutual respect and of sympathy was happily initiated by the late Bishop Verjus and the Rev. Messrs. Lawes and Chalmers, and it has only become stronger with time and an increased number of workers.

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS.

50. These may be briefly noticed here. Mr. De Vis has had a heavy task in examining the large number of birds recently submitted to him. This work, and the arrangement and classification of the 6,500 objects in the ethnological collection of

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British New Guinea now in the Queensland Museum, he has carried out with his usual enthusiasm. The official collection of birds is now one of great value. The brief enumeration of the ethnological collection will show clearly that a careful study of it would be interesting and instructive. A large and fine collection of insects has not yet been examined, as it is quite impossible for Mr. De Vis to give all his time to New Guinea collections.

51. The different reports furnished by Mr. Jack and Mr. Rands cover a great variety of geological specimens. The most interesting of these are the analyses of coal from the Purari River, and the gold-bearing sand from the Angabunga River. Both require much further investigation on the ground, but they are each of so much promise as to stimulate closer examination at the earliest possible date. Of special interest, too, is the study of the stone from the Murua quarry, so greatly prized for the stone axe of the native. Some fossils, the determination of which is of considerable interest, are still under examination.

52. Some botanical collections have again been submitted to the veteran scientist, Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller. He has found several noteworthy novelties.

53. Mr. C. Hedley has furnished a brief report on the land shells examined by him, in which he mentions several that are new and of special scientific value to the naturalist.

METEOROLOGY.

54. The only complete meteorological returns for a year that have reached me are supplied by Mr. Ernst Kennedy, of the Anglican Mission. These cover the year from the beginning of February, 1892, to the end of January, 1893, and are for Dogura, Bartle Bay, on the north-east coast. The rainfall was, in round numbers, 80 inches; rain fell on 189 days. The highest monthly maximum temperature was, for May, 92 degrees; the lowest is noted for August, at 67 degrees. At Taupota, on the north-east coast, 25 inches of rain fell from August to December, 1893, and about 17 inches fell during the same period at Wedau.

Returns from the Rev. Father Vitali, at Inawi, for the six months ending with June, 1894, give the following results for the half-year:—

—	Rainfall.	—	Mean Temperature.
January - -	3·03 inches	January - -	72½ degrees.
February - -	5·04 „	February - -	72⅝ „
March - -	1·53 „	March - -	72¼ „
April - - -	1·80 „	April - -	73⅜ „
May - - -	5·21 „	May - - -	72¼ „
June - - -	1·57 „	June - - -	72¾ „
Rain fell on 77 days.			

GENERAL.

55. The usual annual visit of the Administrator to Brisbane for the despatch of business was dispensed with this year, as the time could ill be spared from local work.

56. The opening of a port of entry at Daru became necessary on several grounds. It possesses the only harbour known at present in the Possession west of Ravao.

Of the large number of boats engaged in the Torres Straits fishery some were always coming into contact with the west end of the Possession, landing for wood and water, &c. Then the labour law was so modified as to permit of western men being employed in boats located in British New Guinea and fishing in the Straits. This naturally increased the already frequent communication between the islands and the Possession. Native boats were also in the habit of coming to the Fly River to purchase sago for Murray Island, Darnley, &c. The great danger that this irregular kind of communication caused was that of the introduction of serious contagious diseases into the Possession. This danger can be at least reduced by making Daru a port of entry, and requiring all boats entering the Possession in the west to go by way of Daru, when quarantine can, if necessary, be imposed. A proposal was also under consideration for an alteration of the boundary between Queensland and British New Guinea, which will give increased importance to the west end of the Possession, and make the Daru port of more use than it is now. There are now three ports of entry in the Possession—at Daru, Port Moresby, and Samarai. It does not seem likely that under present conditions any more will be required.

The employment of western men in fishing vessels appears so far to be successful. They have a natural aptitude for work afloat. No case of unfair treatment has been reported, and they are well spoken of by their employers. There are a large number of foreigners participating in that fishery. It is not intended that they should be allowed, unless in exceptional cases, to engage natives of New Guinea, at all events not for the present. Some 130 men have been engaged before the Resident Magistrate, the great majority of them for boat-work. Their wages are generally 10*s.* a month.

57. The Armed Constabulary now contains only four men not Papuans. The foreigners are Solomon Islanders that joined the force during the year. Of those brought from Fiji, all save one—the sergeant for the Western Division—have left the constabulary, at or soon after the expiration of their term. Nearly all have married Papuan women, and all have decided to settle in the country. Each man has received, in lieu of a return passage to Fiji, a Crown grant for ten acres of land, free of all expense. Besides the western sergeant, two others are in Government employ. There is no more important educational establishment in the Possession than that of the constabulary. A considerable

number of young men are passed through it, and each of them leaves with broader views and a greatly improved moral status—looked at from the European point of view. It has, however, been very unfortunate that the Commandant has been so frequently changed, a circumstance that has greatly affected training and discipline. But, in spite of that, the constabulary has done a great amount of good as a teaching institution. It is the most effective means in operation for the distribution of a common tongue over a wide area of country. The languages of the constabulary are principally English and Motuan. The latter tongue is more easily acquired than the former, and it has been carried by retired constables to numerous places where it had never before been heard of. Fortunately the same language will be also broadly diffused from Mr. Lawes' Central College. The rate at which men are passed through the force is, however, undesirably great, entailing much work on the officers of the force by the never-ending work of training the new men. The love of the Papuan for his own home is so intense that he is drawn towards it by irresistible attraction. Men that can resist that feeling are, on account of their superior knowledge, character, and experience, offered higher wages by traders and others. The fixed rate of pay in the force is 10*s.* a month for the first year, and 1*l.* a month afterwards.

58. The important system of village constables has been steadily and carefully developed. It is, of course, only in its infancy yet, for it must eventually form a network over the entire colony. The importance of tnis establishment may be seen at once from the short table given below, prepared by Mr. Hely for his own district; it gives also the distribution of teachers and chiefs in the same place:—

Village.	Chiefs.	Police.	Teachers.
Mawatta - -	1 (n. m.)	2	1
Turi Turi - -	1 „	2	—
Masingara - -	1 (chief)	2	—
Kunini - -	—	—	1 (worked by Turi Turi police).
Gasira - -	1 „	2	—
Parama - -	2 „	2	1
Iasa - - -	4 „	4	—
Saguane - -	—	—	1 (no fixed population).
Ipisia - -	—	—	1 „
Wiorubi - -	1	2	—
Sumai - -	2	2	1
Auti - - -	1	2	—
	14	20	6

The number of village constables in the Central District already amounts to 50 men. The system has not been so successfully worked in the East and South Divisions, but even there they have been very useful.

The Reverend Mr. Bromilow speaks well of the Dobu police; and the five men of the village force in the Louisiades are all very serviceable.

The number of village constables at present on the roll is about four score. They receive each, as a rule, 1*l.* a year and two suits of uniform that cost about 6*s.* each. Of course they require close and constant watching from magistrates and Government Agents. Not a few of them are men that have been in the constabulary or in prison, and the latter are quite as trustworthy as the former. The village constable and the teacher are complementary of each other; but the village police force promises to grow the faster.

59. Speaking generally, there was very satisfactory progress made during the year among the majority of coast tribes. A considerable number of inland tribes were also brought under influence, and in some cases under control. But the great trouble of the period is now the descent of unknown, or of little known, hill tribes on the coast people. This is a great difficulty, and one that, unfortunately, will not cease for some years. As some of these tribes are heard of for the first time only after one of these incursions, it is, of course, impossible to guard against their descent. The only way to deal with this is to visit the inland tribes, but that takes much time. As it is impossible to walk across the hilly country from end to end—that is from east to west—the plan is being acted upon of sending parties inland from the coast at selected points. In this way Mr. Guise and Mr. Armit went inland to Maneáo from the north-east coast; Mr. Armit went to the highlands of Goodenough Island, and Mr. Armit also went inland from Mairu. Last year Mr. Lawes and Mr. English went inland to Tupelam, &c., in the Central District; and Mr. Kowald went right into the heart of the Mekeo Range. As many expeditions of this kind as possible must be undertaken during the next two or three years, for the settled tribes will never have peace and rest in certain districts until the hillmen behind them are brought more or less under control. It is much to be regretted that the funds at disposal cannot be manipulated to increase the staff that might be made available for this work; but it does not appear possible to employ more officers on the means at present at command.

60. The consent of the three contributing Colonies will be asked to expend during the next three or four years the unemployed balance of 1,300*l.* not used during the first year of the Administration. That sum, if spread over the term of the ten years still unexpired, would permit of the employment during that period of two additional Government Agents, one of whom is urgently required for Kiriwina and the D'Entrecasteaux Groups.

61. Sketch maps* representing a large amount of labour will be found appended. In this much valuable aid was rendered by

* Not printed.

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the Commander of the "Merrie England," Mr. M. A. Jones. Without the enthusiastic assistance of Mr. McDowall, Surveyor-General of Queensland, these could not have appeared in this Report.

62. As in previous years, every possible assistance was rendered to the Possession by the Government of Queensland, a circumstance that much facilitates and strengthens the work of administration.

I have, &c.

WM. MACGREGOR.

His Excellency
Sir Henry Wylie Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.I.E., &c.,
Governor of Queensland.

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BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894-5.

(For Report for 1893–4, *see* No. 131 of this Series.)

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June 1896.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
133	British Guiana	1893–94
134	Jamaica	"
135	Newfoundland	1893
136	Gold Coast	"
137	Zululand	1894
138	Bermuda	"
139	Bahamas	"
140	Barbados	"
141	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
142	Malta	"
143	Gambia	"
144	Windward Islands	"
145	Trinidad and Tobago	"
146	Gibraltar	"
147	Falkland Islands	"
148	Hong Kong	"
149	Straits Settlements	"
150	Lagos	"
151	Seychelles	"
152	Basutoland	1894–95
153	Fiji	1894
154	St. Helena	"
155	Ceylon	"
156	Mauritius	"
157	Labuan	"
158	Gold Coast	"
159	British Guiana	1894–95
160	Sierra Leone	1894
161	Jamaica	1894–95
162	British Honduras	1894
163	British Bechuanaland	1894–95
164	Newfoundland	1894
165	Gambia	1895
166	Bermuda	"
167	Leeward Islands	1894

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.

No. 168.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

(For Report for 1893–4, *see* No. 131.)

Lieut.-Governor Sir A. H. PALMER to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Brisbane,
February 21, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, in separate cover, six printed copies of the Annual Report of the British New Guinea Administration for the year ended on the 30th June 1895. I also forward, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Chief Secretary of Queensland, in which he acknowledges the services rendered by his Honour Mr. Winter, who administered the Government of the Possession during the absence of Sir William Macgregor.

The appendices give Reports of the various visits of Mr. Winter to different parts of the Possession, and, besides, contain much useful information.

I have, &c.
A. H. PALMER,
Lieut.-Governor.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
February 19, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt from your Excellency of Sir William Macgregor's Despatch, of the 5th December last, transmitting the Annual Report on the affairs of the Possession for the year ended 30th June 1895, prepared by his Honour F. P. Winter, C.M.G., who acted as Administrator during the period under review.

I have caused the Report to be printed, and now forward the usual number of copies for transmission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I desire to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the manner in which Mr. Winter administered the Government of the Possession during the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor.

I have, &c.
HUGH M. NELSON.

His Excellency
The Hon. Sir Arthur Palmer, K.C.M.G.,
Lieutenant-Governor.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1894–5.

ANNUAL REPORT on BRITISH NEW GUINEA from 1st July 1894 to 30th June 1895, with APPENDICES.

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BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1894–95.

Government House,
British New Guinea, December 5, 1895.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the usual Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 1895.

In the early part of the year under review I was absent in Queensland on official duty. In the beginning of September I left for Europe, on leave of absence, and returned to the Possession at the end of last May.

During my absence, his Honour F. P. Winter, C.M.G., acted as Administrator.

Mr. Winter, with loyalty and ability, carried on the work of administration on the lines already well established; and, as he is better acquainted than I can be with the details of all that transpired during my absence, he has at my request prepared this Report for the year, in doing which he has followed the arrangement of previous ones.

I have, &c.,
WM. MACGREGOR.

His Excellency
Sir Arthur Hunter Palmer, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.
Lieutenant-Governor, Queensland.

REPORT.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present a report of the proceedings of the Government of British New Guinea for the year ending with June 1895, as directed by Section XXXVI. of the Royal Instructions.

LEGISLATION.

Ordinances.

1. Ordinance No. II. of 1894, being an Ordinance for the protection of wild birds. The objects of this measure are to prevent the destruction of wild birds of any description in certain localities, and generally the destruction of rare or valuable species of birds.

The Administrator is empowered to prohibit, by proclamation, the destruction within a prescribed locality of all wild birds except such birds as may by the proclamation itself be excluded from its operation, or of the wild birds that are described in the proclamation itself.

Any breach of the provisions of a proclamation renders the offender liable to a penalty of 10*l.*

Provision is made for granting a restricted permission to destroy protected birds where such birds have become noxious.

During the year three proclamations were issued under this Ordinance The first of these prohibits the destruction of all

wild birds, except birds of prey, in the vicinity of Port Moresby, in the island of Samarai, and on the island of Daru; the second forbids the destruction of the rare Bird of Paradise, only known to exist in the D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago, and generally called the Fergusson Island (Raggiana); and the third protects from destruction in the D'Entrecasteaux and Trobriand archipelagos all birds of the larger kind of the Manucodia species of the Birds of Paradise, called by the natives "Buli Buli."

2. Ordinance No. III. of 1894, being the Appropriation Ordinance for 1894-5. This measure was passed to appropriate for the services of the financial year the following sums:—For ordinary administration purposes, the sum of 15,000*l.*; for the purposes of exploration, 400*l.*; for the purchase of a vessel, the sum of 350*l.*; for the maintenance of the steamship "Merrie England," the sum of 7,000*l.*, and the sum of 544*l.*, being an unexpected balance brought forward from the previous year.

3. Ordinance No. IV. of 1894, being an Ordinance to amend "The Pearlshell and Bêche-de-mer Fishery Ordinance of 1891." This Ordinance brought the law of the Possession that governs the fishery in accord with the law of Queensland, which had been altered in several respects since the Ordinance of 1891 was passed. The following are the principal alterations made by the amending Ordinance:—Power is given to appoint inspectors of the fishery; ample authority is bestowed upon such inspectors to examine into all matters connected with the fishery, and to enforce observance of the law.

Stringent provisions are made to ensure all diving-gear being maintained in a state of efficiency.

A minimum size of pearlshell is fixed. Fishing for shell that is less than this size is prohibited under penalty.

Ports of export for pearlshell are constituted, and the export of shell from any place other than such a port of export is forbidden.

The Administrator in Council is empowered to prohibit the removal of pearlshell or other marine products from any specified locality.

No ship employed in the fishery is to have on board more than two gallons of intoxicating liquor.

Power is given to the Administrator in Council to grant leases of the whole or of any part of an outlying reef or bank, or of any shore reef, or of the foreshore of an island, or of any Crown lands lying below high-water mark in any lagoon, river, inlet, estuary, or creek, or of any lands lying beneath tidal waters, within the limits of the jurisdiction of British New Guinea, for the collection, storage, cultivation, or propagation of pearlshell, oysters, and other products of the sea.

Native Regulations

4. The only regulation of the Native Regulation Board passed during the year is one dealing with extortion. The object of this measure is to prevent Natives who have acquired a knowledge of

the Government and its ways from abusing this knowledge for their own benefit.

The first penal clause of the regulation imposes a penalty of not more than 14 days' imprisonment upon any native that pretends that he is possessed of authority from the Government when he knows that he is not. The second penal clause makes it penal for any native to use any real or pretended authority for the purpose of gaining a benefit for himself or his friends. Any native committing a breach of this clause may be ordered to restore any property that he has extorted, and if he does not obey the order, may be imprisoned for a period not exceeding 14 days; and, in addition to this, he may, as a punishment for the extortion, be imprisoned for a period not exceeding two months.

Goldfields Regulations.

5. A set of regulations under "The Gold Fields Act, 1874" (Queensland adopted), was passed. These regulations divide themselves into two parts, the first of which relates to increased reward claims, and is only applicable to the main island of New Guinea; whilst the second, which makes certain alterations in the general law, is applicable to the whole Possession.

The rewards given under these regulations are for the discovery of gold at a spot distant more than 20 miles in a straight line from the nearest place at which gold is being mined for. The extent of the rewards is as follows:—If the spot be distant more than 20 but less that 40 miles—for alluvial, 20 chains of one man's ground; for quartz, 1,000 feet along the line of reef. And if the spot be distant 40 miles or more—for alluvial, 30 chains of one man's ground; for quartz, 1,250 feet along the line of reef. These reward claims are in addition to any reward claims already allowed by law.

The remainder of the regulations are to meet the difficulties which in a new country like New Guinea stand in the way of a strict compliance with the laws relating to the registration and the working of claims. The difficulty of communication, sickness, the failure of provisions or mining requisites, or the absence of the warden may render it impossible for a person to comply with the law. The laws are therefore relaxed to the extent that, if non-compliance by a person with the law is really not the fault of such person, such non-compliance may be deemed excusable.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

6. The establishment for the administration of justice is the same as that of last year.

His Honour F. P. Winter, C.M.G., Chief Judicial Officer, has furnished the following tabulated list of cases dealt with by the Courts during the year:—

MATTERS DEALT WITH JUDICIALLY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1895.

CENTRAL COURT.

Criminal Jurisdiction.

Number of Persons committed for Trial.	District from which committed.	Persons committed—how disposed of.
38	Central District - -	27 tried.
		8 committal quashed.
		3 awaiting trial.
35	Eastern District - -	24 tried.
		5 committal quashed.
		6 awaiting trial.
20	Western District - -	20 tried.
Total - - 93		

The Court held 26 Criminal Sessions at the places and times, and with the results, undermentioned :—

No. of Persons tried.	Offence charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		PORT MORESBY—21st July, 1894.	
1	Murder, (2) wounding, &c.	guilty of wounding with intent to murder - -	5 years' penal servitude.
		PORT MORESBY—9th October, 1894.	
6	5 murder, (2) attempt to murder, 1 murder.	5 guilty of attempt to murder, 1 acquitted.	5 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		SAMARAI—20th October, 1894.	
2	Murder - - - -	guilty of murder - -	death.
		SUDEST ISLAND—30th October, 1894.	
1	Murder - - - -	acquitted.	
		JOANNET ISLAND—30th October, 1894.	
2	Murder (2) assault - -	guilty of assault - - -	12 months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		BOGOYA—1st November, 1894.	
1	Unlawfully wounding -	guilty of unlawfully wounding.	fined 5*l*.
		SEGARA—1st November, 1894.	
1	Murder - - - -	guilty of murder - -	death.
		NIVANI—5th November, 1894.	
1	Murder - - - -	acquitted on ground of insanity.	
		SAMARAI, 7th November, 1894.	
5	2 murder, 3 extorting goods with menaces.	2 guilty of murder, 3 guilty of extorting goods with menaces.	2 death, 3 two months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		DOBU—20th November, 1894.	
1	Wounding, &c., (2) assault.	guilty of assault - -	three month's imprisonment with hard labour.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1894–5.

No. of Persons tried.	Offence charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	WAMIRA—21st November, 1894.		
6	Assaulting constables, &c. (2) assault.	guilty of assaulting constables whilst discharging their duty.	twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	DEDERE—27th November, 1894.		
8	Murder - - - -	3 guilty of murder, 5 acquitted.	3 death.
	DOMARA—29th November, 1894.		
1	Murder - - - -	acquitted.	
	PARAMAN—1st December 1894.		
2	Wounding - - -	acquitted.	
	PORT MORESBY—7th and 8th December, 1894.		
2	Murder - - - -	guilty of murder - -	death.
	DARU—2nd January, 1895.		
3	2 murder, 1 abusing girl under ten years of age.	1 guilty of murder, 1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 discharged.	1 death, 1 twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	SAGUANE—8th and 9th January, 1895.		
16	11 murder, 1 rape, 1 unlawfully wounding, 3 contempt of court.	1 guilty of manslaughter, 10 acquitted of murder, 1 guilty of rape, 1 guilty of unlawfully wounding, 3 guilty of contempt of court.	1 death, 2 six months' imprisonment with hard labour, 3 six months' imprisonment.
	PORT MORESBY—24th January, 1895.		
1	Murder - - - -	guilty - - - - -	death.
	NIVANI—11th February, 1895.		
1	Assault with intent, &c.	not guilty.	
	SAMARAI—12th February, 1895.		
1	Murder - - - -	guilty of manslaughter -	four months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	SAMARAI—26th February, 1895.		
3	Desecration of sepulture	guilty - - - -	two months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	PORT MORESBY—6th April, 1895.		
5	Murder - - - -	guilty - - - -	death.
	PORT MORESBY—11th April, 1895.		
2	Murder - - - -	guilty - - - -	death.
	GUNIAKURU—9th May, 1895.		
1	Murder - - - -	guilty of manslaughter -	two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

No. of Persons tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	PORT MORESBY—16th May, 1895.		
1	Larceny	guilty	one months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	DARU—23rd May, 1895.		
9	7 murder, 2 wounding with intent, &c.	7 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of wounding, 1 not guilty.	7 one year's imprisonment with hard labour, 1 three months' imprisonment with hard labour.
Total 83			

Civil Business.

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings.
10	Applications for administration by Curator of Intestate Estates.
2	Applications by Curator of Intestate Estates for directions.
5	Applications under section 34 of Intestacy Act.
1	Application under section 24 of Intestacy Act.
Total 18	

COURT OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Indictable Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Inquiry.
Central District	54	43 murder	38 committed.
		7 attempt to murder	
		1 assault	8 discharged.
		1 breaking gaol	8 on remand.
		2 assisting prisoner to escape	
Eastern District	45	22 murder	35 committed.
		9 assault	
		5 extortion	4 discharged.
		2 breaking gaol	6 on remand.
		6 desecration of sepulture	
		1 larceny	
Western District	20	13 murder	20 committed.
		1 rape	
		3 wounding	
		3 contempt of court	
	Total 119		

Summary Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central District	62	10 larceny	5 convicted, 5 discharged.
		14 assault	13 convicted, 1 discharged.
		21 breach of Labour Ordinance	6 convicted, 15 discharged.
		7 breach of Constabulary Ordinance.	5 convicted, 2 discharged.
		2 harbouring escaped prisoner	2 convicted.
		7 breach of Prisons Ordinance	7 convicted.
		1 injuries to property	1 convicted.
Eastern District	62	26 larceny	23 convicted, 3 discharged.
		16 assault	16 convicted.
		1 breach of Pearl Shell Ordinance.	1 convicted.
		14 harbouring escaped prisoners	12 convicted, 2 discharged.
		1 abusive language	1 discharged.
		2 breach of Prisons Ordinance	2 convicted.
		2 drunk and disorderly	2 convicted.
Western District	4	3 assault	3 convicted.
		1 breach of Pearl Shell Ordinance.	1 convicted.
	Total 128		

Civil Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Action.	Result of Action.
Central District	6	2 debt	Verdict for plaintiff.
		4 work done	3 verdict for plaintiff, 1 for defendant.
Eastern District	3	1 debt	Verdict for plaintiff.
		1 wages	Verdict for plaintiff.
		1 damage to boat	Settled out of court.
Western District	2	2 debt	1 for plaintiff, 1 for defendant.
	Total 11		

NATIVE MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

Criminal Jurisdiction (Forbidden Acts).

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central) -	32	9 larceny - - -	6 convicted, 3 discharged.
		4 assault - - -	2 convicted, 2 discharged.
		6 using threatening language	3 convicted, 3 discharged.
		1 adultery - - -	1 discharged.
		6 spreading lying reports -	6 convicted.
		2 sorcery - - -	1 convicted, 1 discharged.
		2 extortion - - -	2 discharged.
		2 breach of roads regulation-	2 convicted.
No. 3 (Eastern) -	45	13 larceny - - -	11 convicted, 2 discharged.
		6 assault - - -	2 convicted, 4 discharged.
		5 sorcery - - -	4 convicted, 1 discharged.
		18 adultery - - -	15 convicted, 3 discharged.
		2 threatening language -	2 convicted.
		1 spreading lying reports -	1 convicted.
No. 1 (Western) -	3	1 assault - - -	1 convicted.
		2 adultery - - -	2 convicted.
Total -	80		

Civil Jurisdiction (Civil Claims).

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Claim.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central) -	3	1 right to erect a fence -	Verdict for complainant.
		2 injuries to property -	Verdict for complainant.
No. 3 (Eastern) -	3	1 claim to land - -	Verdict for defendant.
		1 claim to box - -	Verdict for complainant.
		1 non-delivery of pigs -	Verdict for complainant.
No. 1 (Western) -	—	None.	
Total -	6		

TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court - - - - - - -	93
In Courts of Petty Sessions (exclusive of the 93 cases that went up to Central Court) - - - - -	154
In Native Magistrates' Courts - - - - -	80
In all Courts - - - - - -	327

TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court - - - - - -	18
In Courts of Petty Sessions - - - - -	11
In Native Magistrates' Courts - - - - -	6
In all Courts - - - - - -	35

Of the total 327 cases that were brought before the Courts in their criminal jurisdiction, 20 resulted in a sentence of capital punishment. These 20 cases were all homicides by natives upon natives. In no instance was the death sentence carried out, the sentences being commuted in each case to penal servitude.

A native of Dufaure Island killed his wife shortly after he had discovered that she had been guilty of adultery. The killing by a man of his wife under such circumstances would by natives be regarded as justifiable.

A native of Taupoto killed another native of the same place. There was no apparent motive for this crime. The offender himself admitted that he had no cause of hostility against his victim, but that an overpowering impulse to kill him seized him, and he went and killed him. From all accounts the culprit had always been a very quiet, well-behaved person. The Court did not consider insanity sufficiently established to justify an acquittal on that ground. It was evident, however, that when the accused committed the offence he was not right in his mind, and this appeared to be a sufficient reason for commuting the sentence.

A native of Gulewa, in the island of St. Aignan, was sentenced to death for killing a man of the village of Heriba, on the same island. This murder was the latest homicide in a long-standing feud between these tribes.

A native of Maiwara, in Milne Bay, came in from working at his garden, and, being hungry, asked his wife for some food. His wife refused his request. Upon this he lost his temper. He still had in his hand the tomahawk with which he had been working. He made a blow with this at his wife, and the blow was fatal. The unpremeditated nature of the crime was allowed to weigh in favour of the prisoner.

A man of Bakera, in Normanby Island, ran away with the wife of another man, and when the latter came to seek the pair he threw a spear at the husband, which killed him. As an instance of strong affection on the part of a New Guinea native, and as a proof that a barbarian may, on the subject of unions between the sexes, possess ideas which have had their weight with highly-cultivated minds, the case is somewhat remarkable. When the culprit was blamed by his own people, he said that it was true the woman was by custom the wife of deceased, but that, as he loved her more than deceased had done, and she loved him more than she had deceased, she was really his wife. To do the offender justice, he did not deem his proceedings creditable. He said that it was the feeling of anguish at the idea of losing the woman that made him throw the spear. After the evidence had been given before the magistrate, he observed: "It is quite true, and I am ashamed to have to admit that it is." He received his sentence with serene composure, and then remarked in a reflective manner, "Well, I did behave like a fool, but I really could not help it." His sentence was commuted to ten years' penal servitude.

Three men of the Dedere district were convicted, one as an instigator of, and the two others as participators in, the Magaobu massacre. In commuting these sentences the number of persons concerned in the massacre and the punishment which the tribes implicated in the murder had received, from the long and strenuous pursuit they had been subjected to, was taken into consideration.

A young man of the Kabadi district several years ago killed a lad for stealing food. The lad appears to have been an habitual thief. According to native custom the homicide would be justifiable. At the date that the lad was killed the natives of Kabadi had not learnt much about the ways of the Government.

An old man of a village on the Astrolabe Range struck a young girl on the head with a stone club because she would not give him some pig's fat. The blow was fatal. The conduct of the old man at the trial, and generally, gave the impression that he was rather weak in his mind. Even had he belonged to a place well under Government influence, he was probably too hardened in his old customs and ideas to understand the new order of things. His sentence was commuted to a long term of penal servitude.

A youth of the village of Aripara, in the west, was charged with the murder of the husband of a woman with whom he had an intrigue. The lad seemed to have been quite under the influence of the woman, who instigated him to kill her husband in order that she and he might get married. These facts were taken into consideration in commuting the sentence.

A young man of a village on Kiwai Island was convicted of the rape of a girl. The rape had been conducted in rather an open manner. The youth had tried to get the girl to marry him, which she had refused to do. He seems to have come to the conclusion that by acting as he did he would compel the girl to marry him. This a few years ago would probably have been the sequel to the affair. The village constable, however, heard of what had happened, and the youth was at once arrested and sent to Daru.

A man from a hill village at the back of Milport Harbour killed a woman who, deservedly or undeservedly, had gained the reputation of being a witch. The accused and another man deemed it their duty to rid the country of what to them was a wicked woman. The locality where the homicide took place has not as yet been brought under much control.

Five men of an Alepa village were convicted of taking part in an attack on Kalirupu, in which attack about 10 of the inhabitants of the latter village were killed. There had been a feud of some standing between the two villages. The arrest and imprisonment of these men will probably put an end to hostilities.

Two more of the Korohi tribe were convicted of taking part in the massacre of the Kagi people, perpetrated in July, 1894, by a band made up from many hill villages. There was nothing specially heinous in the offence of these men and, as the sentence imposed upon another of the band had been commuted, the same course was followed in the present instance.

The 26 sittings of the Central Court in its Criminal jurisdiction were held as below:—

In the Western Division - - - -	3
In the Central Division - - - -	11
In the Eastern Division - - - -	6
In the South-eastern Division - - -	6

Nine cases were awaiting trial by the Central Court at the end of the year.

Of the 119 indictable offences brought before the Central Court 78 were for murder. The rest of the cases were mostly in the nature of more or less serious assaults. Under this category come cases of manslaughter and wounding. These frequently are simply the result of a sudden fit of anger, and the blow struck under the impulse of passion is often regretted immediately afterwards. Natives at times, partly, perhaps, owing to their own ignorance or carelessness, die from wounds which, had they been inflicted on a healthy European, would probably not have produced any serious results. The natives of the Western Division are rather apt to use their hands when they lose their tempers. These considerations doubtless weigh with the Court in imposing sentences which, if the offence had been committed in a civilised country, might perhaps be deemed light sentences. As regards the desecration of sepulture cases, they were all from one district near Milne Bay, and were the outcome of some superstitious ideas prevalent amongst the people of this district.

Of the summary cases brought before the Courts of Petty Sessions, a large number are for larceny. These thefts are mostly small thefts from Europeans by natives, which cannot be dealt with in the Native Magistrates' Courts. Some of the thefts were of money. It is usually youths who have been with Europeans that steal money. The breaches of the Labour Ordinance were cases of natives running away from service. Natives that are serving at places distant from their homes are at times seized with a strong fit of home-sickness and go home without leave.

The cases tried in the Native Magistrates' Courts are not so numerous as those tried in the preceding year. In the Central District this is probably due to the absence on leave of the agents at Rigo and Mekeo for more than half the year. Petty thefts and slight assaults were the most common offences. The Adultery Regulation was more availed of in the Eastern District.

The civil cases brought before the Native Magistrates' Courts by no means represent all the disputes that are settled by magistrates. Many differences are decided in a friendly way by reference to a magistrate. A dispute amongst the Aroma tribes about a valuable block of land, several square miles in extent, was during the year decided, with the approval of the natives, without any legal formalities, by the Chief Judicial Officer. The case was one that it would have been extemely difficult to bring before a court in such a form that a court could have given a judgment. The disputants agreed to take the opinion of the Chief Judicial Officer as to whom the land belonged to, and they have abided by it.

The total number of cases brought before the Courts has been

1894–95.	1893–94.	1892–93.	1891–92.	1890–91.	1889–90.
362	317	138	142	81	71

As has been pointed out before, the increase in the number of cases that come before the courts does not represent an increase in crime. It is simply the result of the increased influence of the Government, the increasing efficiency of village constables, and the greater willingness of the natives to let the law avenge injuries. In those districts that are now getting well under Government control, crime is decreasing. Of the 20 men convicted of murder only one came from a seaside village, on the long line of coast between Maipua and Samarai. From the thickly-populated Mekeo district not one serious offence was reported. From the district lying between the Astrolabe Range and the Kemp Welch River, and which may be said to constitute the Rigo district proper, no serious crime was reported. For the first two years after the establishment of the Possession this was the worst district in the coastal portions of the Possession for homicides and feuds.

Administrative Visits of Inspection.

7. On the 17th of October 1894 a visit to the east was begun. As a large number of prisoners were being taken to Samarai to work at the swamp, Dedere was the only place touched at on the coast between Port Moresby and Samarai.

From Samarai the steamer proceeded as far south as Rossel Island, calling at Nivani and Sudest. At the latter place the gold reef was inspected. The constabulary at Rossel Island for 48 hours rigorously pursued a hill tribe that had been guilty of an attack on a coast tribe, and succeeded in capturing one culprit.

From Rossel the return to Samarai was made *vid* Sudest, Joannet Island, Bogoya, Segara, the Lachlans, part of the north coast of Misima, and Nivani. At most of these places sittings of the Central Court were held. At the Lachlans all the villages were visited and some steps taken to prevent burials in villages.

From Samarai the next place visited was Dobu. Here news was received of the death of James Hurley, the leader of a party seeking for gold in the ranges at the back of Bartle Bay at the hands of some natives. The steamer, therefore, at once went across to Bartle Bay, calling at Taupota to obtain carriers. The Commandant with a party of constabulary and carriers was left at Wamira with instructions to proceed to the scene of Hurley's death, whilst the steamer went on to the Trobriands. Several days were spent in the Trobriands visiting different districts. A return was then made to Bartle Bay, where the Commandant and his party were picked up. He had captured six men belonging to the tribe that had killed Hurley, but there was no proof that any of

the six had taken part in the murder. Finally they were sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment each for resisting the constabulary, whom they had tried to resist with weapons. The murder was committed by wild hill tribes who had never had any intercourse with Europeans before the mining party came amongst them.

From Bartle Bay the steamer proceeded to Taupota, where certain differences between the representative of the Anglican Mission at that place and the natives were terminated. After leaving Taupota several villages in Goodenough Bay were visited, and from thence a course was made to Dobu.

On the 24th November a visit was paid to some hill villages at the back of Sikiruku, in Fergusson Island. These hillmen had been bouncing the people of Sikiruku, and expressing contempt for the Government. On the appearance of the Government party they ran away. However, the visit was effectual, as they made friends with the coast people and expressed their intention of behaving properly in the future.

After touching at Samarai the steamer proceeded to Dedere and Domara. The state of the tribes inland from here justified the withdrawal of the detachment of constabulary that had been for the past six months engaged in the pursuit of the perpetrators of the Magaobu massacre and in restoring order. At Domara the constabulary surrounded the village of Merani in the night-time, and captured seven men of Ipsomari. The Ipsomari people were suspected of having brought from the highlands a band of mountaineers that a few months previously had attacked Domara. This band, which eventually was driven back, is supposed to have lost a number of its members by drowning in an estuary. At Dedere and at Domara sittings of the Central Court were held.

After leaving Domara the next place stopped at was Aroma. The different villages were inspected. A dispute between the different villages as to the ownership of a large tract of land was decided. Some criminal cases were disposed of. The disposition of the people was very friendly, and the village constables were particularly attentive, and anxious to make themselves useful.

From Aroma the vessel went to Kapa Kapa, calling off Bula. At the latter place the Chief Gima appeared to be keeping his district in order. A visit was paid to the Rigo station from Kapa Kapa, and also one to the newly-established college of the London Missionary Society. The steamer then returned to port.

8. On the 21st December a departure was made from Port Moresby westward. The first place stopped at was Yule Island, where a visit was paid to the authorities of the Mission of the Sacred Heart.

From Yule Island the steamer went on to Toaripi, landing mails on the way at Yokea, for the London Mission Station. At Toaripi an inquiry was held into a charge of murder, but the facts did not support the charge. Some alleged acts of extortion by the Chief were also inquired into, but there was no evidence to support them.

Karama was next visited. Here the Chief of Womai was summoned to attend and answer charges of resisting the Chief and

village constables of Toaripi in an attempt to arrest a culprit. The investigation turned out unfavourably to the Toaripi officials, who were ordered to confine their work to their own district for the future. The people of Karama were at first much alarmed at the Government visit. However, as the day after the steamer arrived there was Christmas Day, a number of athletic contests for small prizes were got up, in which the constabulary and the natives took part, and the natives recovered confidence.

A landing was next made at Kerema, where a case of alleged murder was inquired into and dismissed and a land purchase made.

Orokolo was then visited. One of the villages had been rather troublesome, and, according to the other villages, was always expressing a desire to fight the Government. As all the constabulary were on shore, they advanced in order on the village, which was at once vacated.

After leaving Orokolo the villages of Apiopi and Maipua were visited, and then the steamer went to Daru, where the Acting Administrator remained whilst the steamer went to Thursday Island.

9. At Daru various criminal cases were dealt with; and then, on the return of the steamer, Saguane was visited. A rather heavy criminal calendar was disposed of. A remarkable case was a charge of murder against ten men of Wiorubi, who, it was alleged, had murdered the shipwrecked crew of an Augaramuba canoe. The witnesses before the lower court denied the evidence they had given. Finally, the case depended upon the evidence of one man. The accused, who had always declared themselves to be innocent, were acquitted.

After the sittings of the Central Court had finished at Saguane, the steamer proceeded to Yule Island, where she left the Acting Administrator, off the mouth of the Angabunga River, and started for Cooktown, *viâ* Port Moresby.

10. From the 11th to the 21st January a visit of inspection was made in the Mekeo district. The villages of Yeku, Inawaia, and Oriropetana, on the eastern side of the river, were inspected, as were also the villages of Veipa, Aipiana, and Inawi, on the western side. Owing to incessant rains, much of the country was under water. The natives had suffered a good deal from sickness. They had also lost a number of pigs from some disease. The wet and the attacks of a species of beetle had injured the taro crop.

The state of the district was very quiet. A few alleged cases of sorcery and theft were the only complaints.

The Mission of the Sacred Heart were found to be extending their operations. Their staff of teachers was on the increase, and new stations were being formed.

After returning to Hall Sound the villages of Pinupaka and Mou were visited, and the party then proceeded to port in the ketch "Lokohu."

11. At the beginning of February, 1895, a tour of inspection eastward was begun. After calling at Samarai the steamer went

to the Wesleyan Mission Station at Tube Tube (Slade) Island. The natives of this port were found to be on good terms with the mission, and are well-behaved and law-abiding.

From Tube Tube a course was made for Nivani. The station was in good order. Excepting that the Pannaieti people have not quite got over their fondness for roving, their behaviour is satisfactory enough.

After leaving Nivanio, Sudest was visited, and on the return missionary matters were very quiet. Gold-digging was still on the decline in Sudest.

After the steamer returned to Samarai she proceeded to Dobu, where the Acting Administrator was left with the lugger "Peuleule," whilst the "Merrie England" went over to Queensland.

12. After the steamer left Dobu, as mentioned in last paragraph, a stay of two or three days was made at Dobu, and several places in the neighbourhood visited. Then the lugger went to Sikiruku on Fergusson Island, and from thence along the coast of Normanby Island to Samarai. At Bakera the constabulary surprised a hill village, and arrested two men who had been concerned in a tribal feud homicide.

On the return of the steamer to Samarai a start was made for the Trobriands. The steamer anchored off the islet of Iaga in that group shortly before sunset on the 6th March. At about half-past six in the evening a prolonged earthquake shock was experienced.

On the following morning Kavatari was reached, and a visit paid to the Wesleyan Mission and the native villages. A large number of natives were assembled at Kavatari, as the annual trading trip to Goodenough Island was on the point of starting. The earthquake had been felt very sensibly at Kavatari, and had made a small hole in the ground at the back of the village. The Chief Pulitari had explained the reason of the earthquake to his people, and had put the matter in a favourable light. The Wesleyan Mission here are having very up-hill work in their efforts to get these volatile natives to take more serious views of life.

Leaving a party at Kavatari to visit inland villages, the steamer proceeded to the island of Sim Sim. The principal object in going to Sim Sim was to look for some natives of the Island of Nusa, near New Ireland. These people had been working on a plantation in German New Guinea. A deadly disease had made its appearance on the plantation, which so alarmed these natives that they helped themselves to a boat and fled. After being subjected to the most severe privations, which cost some of them their lives, the boat with the survivors reached Sim Sim, where the natives treated the castaways very well. These Nusa people were taken to Samarai.

At Sim Sim the earthquake had been felt, but the principal result at this place of the terrestrial disturbance had been the formation of a wave somewhere to the south-west of the island. This wave had swept over the low portion of the island, drowning

one child and destroying the houses of the village. The earthquake shock itself appears to have been most severe at the Island of Kawa, a few miles to the south-west of Sim Sim, although the sea wave had apparently not touched Kawa.

From Sim Sim a return was made to Kavatari, calling at Kadawaga. After leaving Kavatari, Sinaketa was touched at, and that place and an inland village visited.

The next place visited was Sanaroa. According to the Wesleyan Mission, a tale, firmly believed in by the natives, had got abroad to the effect that two of the Samarai boat boys had violated two women of a Sanaroa village. On enquiry the story was found to be untrue.

From Sanaroa the steamer proceeded to Dobu, and thence to Begassi. From Begassi a party went inland to inquire into the killing of a native of a lowland village by a mountaineer. It was found that a man had been killed. The spot in the mountain side where the village of the culprit was situate was pointed out. As from all accounts it was not a large village, the native sergeant with a strong contingent was sent on with orders to arrest the culprit if possible. The rest of the party spent the day in visiting villages.

It so happened that on this day a large band of mountaineers had come down to fight the lowlanders. The sergeant and his men came on the two parties, each of which at the time occupied opposite banks of a small mountain stream. Hostilities, however, had not yet begun. The natives were ordered to return to their homes. The lowlanders obeyed, but the mountaineers defied and attacked our party. A rather sharp engagement ensued, which resulted in some of the mountaineers being killed. According to the sergeant, he and his men, however, had eventually to retreat. As there seemed to be some likelihood that the mountaineers might be continuing hostilities, a strong party was got together, which went as far as the spot where the fight took place. Nothing was seen or heard of the mountaineers, and apparently they had no desire for any more fighting.

The next stoppage was at Wamira, in Bartle Bay. A visit was paid to the Anglican Mission. Then the villages in Goodenough Bay and at Cape Vogel were visited. The people at the latter place were, as usual, quiet and friendly. They gave information of a wave having swept in on the mainland near Mount Victory, apparently at the same hour that the wave struck the island of Sim Sim.

On anchoring at Wamira again a large party of miners who had been searching for gold in the hills at the back of that place were found camped at the village. They had no means of getting anywhere, and asked the Government for assistance. What suited them, and what was in the power of the Government to do without expending too much time or coal, was to take them to Paiwa at the head of Goodenough Bay. This was done, and the miners placed on a good footing with Rebuna, the Chief of Paiwa, who let his people go with them as guides and carriers.

From Wamira a return was made to Samarai, calling at Taupota and at Bakera, in Normanby Island. After leaving Samarai the steamer proceeded up the coast to Port Moresby. On the way, the villages on Dufaure Island and on the Amazon Islands and the coast opposite were visited. Calls were also made at Dedere and Domara. The natives in the neighbourhood of these latter places were apparently all at peace with one another. But information of the massacre of some Ganai people by a band of mountaineers was received. No one seemed to know precisely where this band came from, excepting that it was from some spot inland to the north-west of Domara.

13. Towards the end of April a trip through portions of the Central District was begun. Calling at Kapa Kapa, Kerepuna, and Aroma, the steamer, on the 25th April, anchored off the entrance to Marshall's Lagoon. On the way the Government Agent at Rigo and several of the Aroma village police were taken on board.

After landing at Bilirupu, inquiries were made to ascertain what villages the mountaineers who had lately attacked the Ganai people came from. One village that had taken part in the massacre was known, and one man was discovered who said he knew the way to this village. It was decided to pay this village a visit. Carriers having been obtained, the expedition proceeded in boats and canoes to the head of the lagoon. On the third day after leaving the lagoon the village was reached. It is called Puneaburu, and is situate on the summit of a wooded mountain, at an altitude of some 3,000 feet or so above sea level. An attempt to surprise the village during the previous night by an advanced party of constabulary and village police was frustrated by the flooding of some mountain streams. The advanced party nearly surprised the village in the daytime. As it was, however, the inhabitants caught sight of the party and fled into the neighbouring ranges. The expedition returned to Bilirupu.

The country between the head of the lagoon and the village of Puneaburu consisted entirely of wooded hills of no great height. The soil seemed to be good everywhere. The country was very sparsely populated. Only one small village was passed between the lagoon and Puneaburu, and no traces of gardens, except such as belonged to these two villages, were seen.

From Bilirupu the steamer went to Bula, where several villages were visited. After leaving Bula, the next stoppage was at Kapa Kapa. A stay was made at Rigo station, and a trip inland was undertaken. The trip occupied four days, during which a number of villages were visited. The principal object of the trip was to visit a Garia hill village. A man of this village had killed his wife; he and his friends had defied the constabulary sent from the station to arrest him. The latter wisely did not wish a collision. The Garia people were elated at this, and expressed their intention to resist any Government party. On hearing of the approach of our present party, they altered their minds, and the homicide was given up without further trouble. He was tried in the neighbouring village and convicted of manslaughter.

As a whole, the people of this district were found to be well behaved, but they apparently will need constant supervision for some time to come.

From Rigo a walk was taken to Kaile, the villages on the way being inspected. They were in good order. The two village constables who look after these villages are both energetic men. From Kaile the steamer returned to Port Moresby.

Reports by Officers.

14. The Resident Magistrate for the Western Division considers that the natives are making satisfactory progress in his district. A number of the young men have been employed in the pearl-shelling boats during the year, and a sum of over 1,000*l.* has been paid to them as wages. Trade in his district has not been so good as the impetus it took for a short time in 1894 seemed to indicate that it would be. In addition to the Government gardens on Daru, the constables have their own gardens, in which they cultivate a large quantity of vegetable food. The health of the district has been fair. Village chiefs and constables have done their work as well as could be expected from them.

15. There is no report from the Resident Magistrate of the Central Division. Owing to somewhat exceptional circumstances, the office has been exercised at different times in the year by different officers. The present Resident Magistrate only entered upon his duties a few months prior to the end of the year. There are no reports either from the Government Agents of Rigo and Mekeo, subdivisions of the Central Division. The officers who fill these posts were away on leave during seven months of the year. The division has been, on the whole, in a satisfactory state. The only serious native disturbances were due to the action of hill tribes. During 1894 the attacks made by hill tribes on their lowland neighbours were more numerous than in any recent year. But this was not the result of combination. In all cases, action was taken as soon as possible, and the disorders subsided. The village constables in this division are unquestionably improving, and some of them now bring in offenders without waiting for instructions or assistance. Crime in the coast villages of the division has decidedly decreased. Native cultivation has increased, especially in the neighbourhood of Port Moresby. In the Mekeo district the natives suffered somewhat in their goods, both their pigs and their taro having been attacked by diseases; but, owing to the abundance of vegetable food in that locality, they have not suffered in their persons from this.

16. Mr. Moreton, the present Resident Magistrate for the Eastern Division, has sent in a reportfor the year, but, as he only entered upon his office on the 4th of February 1895, the report is necessarily not so comprehensive as it would otherwise be. Fights between tribes appear to be now things of the past, so far as the archipelagoes, the south coast, and a portion of the north-east coast are concerned. The pearl-fishing industry in the

Trobriands has not been so brisk as it was in the first half of the year 1894, the most accessible beds having been exhausted. But apparently the industry will subsist for some time to come. The advent into the Eastern Division of parties of gold-mining prospectors has given the officers of the district some extra work. The village constables and the native employés of the Government, who in this district are used both as constables and as boatmen, have behaved well. Mr. Moreton appends to his report an article on "Native Customs," by Dr. Lamberto Loria, which will be found placed and touched upon under the heading "Native Customs."

17. Mr. W. T. Campbell, the late Resident Magistrate for the Louisiade Division, sends in a report for that portion of the year in which he acted as such Resident Magistrate—that is, from the 23rd day of October 1894. From this report* it will be seen that Mr. Campbell did some good work in his district. His successful action in regard to certain troublesome tribes in Misima (St. Aignan) Island should produce good results.

At the time that Mr. Campbell wrote his report he appears to have been in a dissatisfied state both with the accommodation provided for the Resident Magistrate and the means furnished him for carrying out his duties. This from Mr. Campbell would hardly have been expected, as several years ago he cheerfully fulfilled the duties attached to the same post, at a time when the Resident Magistrate had to content himself with a tent or a native house for a dwelling, had to make the best he could of raw native employées, and had to work at reducing to order a district which then knew next to nothing about law or order. It may be as well to take Mr. Campbell's grievances in detail. As regards the house, it is as elaborate a building as the Government could afford to put up, and is the kind of house that is usually built by Europeans in this country. The gaol, it may be mentioned, is a strong log house, divided into fairly spacious cells. As regards the detachment of constabulary or assistants being natives of the district and not natives from some other district, it may be observed that the advantages of local over foreign natives, or the converse, is a matter which furnishes an unfailing source from which to draw grievances. One officer will give it as his opinion that foreign natives are useless because they do not know the district or the natives thereof, or their language, or their ways, and so forth. His successor is equally certain that the natives of the district are useless, because they have too many friends and relatives, and, being near their homes, are not so obedient, and so on. With respect to the village constables of the district, some of them have undoubtedly been of decided assistance to the Government. The cutter is not new, but she was thoroughly repaired in the beginning of 1895. She should be large enough in a district the waters of which are studded with islands, alongside one of which an anchorage can always be obtained. She has

* Not printed.

invariably been deemed a good and fast sailing boat by the men who have sailed her. To show that Mr. Campbell was not neglected in the matter of assistants, it may be mentioned that one of the best native employés of the Government, whom Mr. Campbell was well satisfied with, was sent to him as his chief assistant, and that six convicts from other districts, who, as will be noticed in his report, Mr. Campbell speaks well of, were selected as reliable and well-conducted men by the head gaoler, and sent to Nivani to form a nucleus of intelligent labourers.

18. The Commandant of the armed constabulary sends in a report* for that period of the year during which the force was under him. From this report it will be seen that what is termed the field force has visited most of the coastal districts of the Possession during the year. The fact that natives get over their liking for home to such an extent that they stay on in the force is a proof that the life is an attractive one. The service enlarges the views of the young men who compose the force. The force being drawn from all parts of the Possession, there is a great diversity of type and character and, although youths from one or neighbouring districts are apt to keep together, it is not unusual amongst older members of the force to see strong intimacies established between lads that have come from districts widely apart. Although, as might naturally be expected from a number of youths, there is plenty of chaff and a certain amount of rough play amongst them, quarrels or fights are practically unknown. One fight, which started between two of a small detachment at work on the Government jetty at Port Moresby, was promptly put a stop to by the native corporal in charge, who arrested the two angry youths and took them forthwith before the Commandant, to the satisfaction of the rest of the members of the force, who freely expressed their opinion that the conduct of their two comrades was disgraceful: they were both put in the lockup for a short period.

PRISONS

19. From the report* of the head gaoler it will be seen that the health of the prisoners has been good. There is nothing unusual in this, as the average health of the prisoners is better than that of any equal number of natives in any part of the Possession. If natives get sick in prison, not only do they get medical treatment but, what is equally important, they are compelled to take care of themselves until they are well.

Without fully endorsing the observation of the head gaoler that the prisoners regard their imprisonment as an atonement for their misdeeds, it is certain that they do not lose caste by being imprisoned. When they go back to their villages they have the status that they had before, with the addition of the superiority which the knowledge they have acquired about the Government and the white men gives them over their fellow villagers.

* Not printed.

The system of appointing prisoners as warders has been very successful. The paid warders and guards are nearly always young men. The prisoner warders are mostly men of middle age, with, at all events, a pretty fair knowledge of their own people. The prisoners themselves are quite willing to obey these warders, for whom, as a rule, they have more regard than they have for the new regular warders. The prisoners appreciate being promoted, and perform their duties as warders as if they were much impressed with the responsibilities of the position.

The number of prisoners in the different gaols on the 30th June, 1895, was 110, distributed as follows:—Port Moresby, 53; Samarai, 20; Daru, 11; Mekeo, 8; Rigo, 5; Mivani, 13. Of these, 73 were under sentences imposed by the Central Court. The number of prisoners discharged during the year was 200. Many of these were men who were in gaol for short periods under the Native Regulation. Of the remainder, a fair proportion were cases that eventually were dismissed.

Establishments.

20. Through the death of Mr. Frank Ernest Lawes, the service lost a good officer, and the natives of Port Moresby and neighbourhood a friend, for whom they had much regard. Mr. Lawes's long residence in the Possession, and the fact that he was the son of the Rev. W. G. Lawes, D.D., had brought him into more familiar contact with the natives than any other officer in the service. The office of Resident Magistrate for the Central District, which became vacant in August, 1894, through the death of Mr. F. E. Lawes, was filled up by the appointment, in England, of Dr. J. A. Blayney, who arrived in the Possession at the end of January. Dr. Blayney combines with his duties of Resident Magistrate those of Government Medical Officer for the Possession. In the interval that elapsed between the death of Mr. Lawes and the arrival of Dr. Blayney, the work attached to the office of Resident Magistrate was performed by Mr. D. Ballantine and Mr. W. E. Armit.

The Resident Magistrate for the Eastern District, Mr. J. M. Hennessy, left Samarai on leave in June, 1895, and resigned his office whilst away from the Possession. Until the arrival at Samaria of Mr. M. H. Moreton, the present Resident Magistrate, the Eastern District was in charge of Mr. R. J. Kennedy, assisted by Mr. J. Meredith, whilst the latter officer was stationed at Samaria.

Mr. H. N. Chester was transferred from the position of Resident Magistrate, Louisiade Division, to the office of Storekeeper, &c., at Port Moresby, at the beginning of the financial year. After Mr. Chester's departure from Nivani, the Louisiade Division was successively under the charge of Mr. J. Graham, Mr. A. W. Butterworth, and Mr. W. T. Campbell.

The Government Agents for Rigo and Mekeo were away on leave from July, 1894, to the end of January, 1895. During their absence, Mr. W. E. Armit performed the duties of both offices, dividing his time between the two districts.

Mr. John Meredith was at the beginning of the year appointed Head Gaoler for the Possession and Overseer of Works. The post of Sub-Collector at Daru was at the commencement of the year temporarily filled by Mr. H. W. de Lange. Mr. J. Graham then held the office for a short time, when he resigned. Upon the resignation of Mr. Graham, Mr. H. W. de Lange was appointed to the office.

Mr. J. Green held the office of Special Agent in Cloudy Bay during the second half of the year 1894. This was a temporary office, and ceased when order had been re-established amongst the tribes at the back of Cloudy Bay.

Public Property and Public Works.

21. Two additions were made during the year to the vessels of the Government. A new launch was landed at Daru in June, 1895. She is intended practically for river navigation. A ketch, the exact counterpart of the "Lokohu," was brought over in February, 1895, to Samarai. She is employed in the Eastern Division, the vessel previously used there, the "Peuleule," being transferred to the West.

The principal piece of work accomplished during the year was the filling up of the swamp at Samarai. This, for the Possession, heavy task was practically completed in February, 1895, but the settling down of the loose earth will render it necessary for some time to level up the flat here and there. The healthiness, utility, and appearance of the island are all enhanced by the disappearance of the swamp, and by the increase of solid level ground.

After the return to Port Moresby of the Head Gaoler with the prisoners that had been at work at the Samarai swamp, the labour at the port was mostly employed in making roads near the port.

Various improvements were effected on Daru Island during the year. A simple but commodious house for the magistrate, a custom-house, and various other buildings, all constructed of materials indigenous to the Possession, were put up. Land was cleared and planted, and the new station generally improved.

At Nivani the chief work done was the clearing and planting of land.

The natives of Port Moresby and adjacent villages cleared and kept clear the main track that leads from the port over to the sea coast, and thence goes eastwardly, also some shorter ones. As was to be expected, there was a little grumbling at having to do this work. Each village cleared as much of the track as went through its land. This is the law, but the natives themselves, once the clearing was inevitable, insisted on this, even though, as it happened, one small village had to do a disproportionate amount of work. Each village evidently came to the conclusion that if it permitted other villages to do any work on its land it might look as if the people of the other villages were owners, or part owners, of the land. There does not seem to have been any difference of opinion as to the boundaries of the land of each village; all seemed

to know quite well where the boundaries were. They managed the whole matter amongst themselves, without any Government supervision.

TRADE.

Detailed tables of imports and exports, navigation, and postal matters will be found in the Appendices to this Report.*

Imports.

22. The total of imports entered at Port Moresby, Samarai, and Daru, respectively, has been :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888–89 - -	6,016	5,019	—	11,108
1889–90 - -	6,798	9,305	—	16,104
1890–91 - -	7,455	8,075	—	15,530
1891–92 - -	10,379	13,377	—	23,755
1892–93 - -	13,173	12,088	—	25,261
1893–94 - -	15,331	11,428	1,741	28,501
1894–95 - -	12,079	14,036	2,253	28,367

The principal items imported have been :—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Food stuffs - -	5,400	7,124	4,463	6,037	6,252	7,31	8,062
Drapery - -	1,185	1,392	1,457	2,133	2,918	2,687	2,607
Tobacco and cigars -	996	1,290	2,354	3,257	2,407	3,985	3,059
Hardware - -	927	1,123	1,535	2,677	2,828	3,162	3,440
Beverages - -	805	1,143	688	890	1,625	1,760	1,116
Clothes - -	550	190	255	705	496	315	294
Building materials -	246	1,086	1,224	1,965	1,474	2,889	1,727
Other articles -	999	2,756	3,554	6,091	7,261	6,522	7,997
Total -	11,108	16,104	15,530	23,755	25,261	28,501	28,302

Food stuffs show a marked increase, which is probably due to a slightly larger European population than to the fact that natives in parts where they earn money consume more European food than they used to do. The decrease in tobacco is not easily accounted for, as smoking gets to be every year a more widely-spread practice. Building materials are less, but then a large

* Not printed.

quantity of building materials was imported in the previous year, Miscellaneous article show a considerable increase. Hardware also shows an increase, and, as appears from the foregoing tables, has steadily increased all along.

Exports.

23. The total value of exports, as entered at the Custom House, has been :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888-89 - -	5,071	871	—	5,943
1889-90 - -	5,458	997	—	6,455
1890-91 - -	7,678	755	—	8,434
1891-92 - -	8,099	3,190	—	11,289
1892-93 - -	6,290	8,675	—	14,966
1893-94 - -	9,555	3,542	1,854	14,952
1894-95 - -	8,399	5,059	2,757	16,215

The total exports show an increase of over 1,200*l.* Gold does not stand first in the list for this year. Most, if not the whole, of the gold was from Sudest and St. Aignan. The following tabulated statement gives the returns since the establishment of the Possession of the gold exported and reported at the Customs :—

——	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-4.	1894-95.
Ounces - -	3,850	3,470	2,426	1,235	582	1,128	728
Value - - -	£14,387	12,440	8,371	4,322	2,236	3,906	2,565

Pearlshell was the chief export in value, the export standing at 3,005*l.* Sandalwood increased, the quantity exported being 378 tons, valued at 2,568*l.* Pearls are set down at 1,330*l.* The largest export of pearls was in the first half of 1894. In the case of pearls and gold, the exports are by no means all reported at the Customs.

The quantity of copra exported and its value were much the same as in the previous year. It may be some years before there will be any marked increase in this article. Natives use most of the nuts, and, although planting cocoanuts goes on, it will be some years before there is a greater extent of fruit-bearing trees. The following represents the exports of copra for the past few years :—

1888–89	-	-	76 tons, valued at	£ 550
1889–90	-	-	43 " "	250
1890–91	-	-	198 " "	1,433
1891–92	-	-	340 " "	2,084
1892–93	-	-	194 " "	1,159
1893–94	-	-	450 " "	2,885
1894–95	-	-	427 " "	2,830

Indiarubber appears for the first time as an export, over two hundredweight having been exported. To what extent it will in the future become an export is extremely difficult to foretell. As yet the number of species of trees that produce indiarubber is not known. There is every reason to suppose that this article will take a more prominent position in next year's Report.

The cultivation of sponges was begun during the year at an establishment started in the Conflict Group. There is abundance of wild sponge in the coral lagoons of the Possession. Apparently, therefore, there should be no drawback to its cultivation. The totalamount of the trade f or the year came to—

	£
Imports - - - -	28,367
Exports - - - -	16,215
Total - - -	44,582

Shipping.

24. The shipping entered inwards and outwards was wholly British. The total number of foreign-going vessels entered inwards was 104, representing 6,605 tons; the entries outwards were 78 vessels, representing 6,082 tons. Many of the vessels are small craft that are engaged in the Torres Straits fishery.

The coasting vessels entered were 59; tonnage, 2,471.

The mail schooner has run regularly throughout the year.

Postal.

25. The postal business up to the end of June, 1895, was as follows:—

Article.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.
Letters received -	2,366	3,166	2,664	4,393	4,679	6,280	6,279
Letters despatched -	2,587	2,586	2,191	3,917	4,011	5,297	6,189
Packets received -	93	111	142	45	230	157	129
Packets despatched -	98	84	88	78	427	467	468
Newspapers received	4,071	5,945	6,042	8,505	6,749	8,131	7,046
Newspapers despatched.	574	590	468	756	276	240	776

FINANCE.

Revenue.

26. The amount of revenue paid into the Queensland Treasury by the Possession during the year was 5,109*l.* It is compared below with that of preceding years :—

Items.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs dues -	2,416	2,893	2,525	4,428	3,757	5,067	4,822
Gold field receipts -	187	20	23	24	23	54	26
Fees - - -	2	4	4	10	157	115	78
Fines - - -	25	41	46	34	24	22	27
Licenses - -	2	11	21	136	106	317	247
Miscellaneous -	42	44	53	149	535	291	109
Total - -	2,679	3,015	2,673	4,783	4,604	5,866	5,109

Expenditure.

2 The sum of 15,000*l.* available for the ordinary Adminstrative Services of the year was fully expended. The expenditure is classified and compared as follows with that of previous years :—

Head of Expenditure.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Civil list salaries -	2,633	3,300	3,290	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,248
Other salaries -	1,796	2,381	3,476	3,559	3,707	3,479	3,640
Vessels and boats -	2,747	2,564	2,938	2,993	1,600	1,308	2,114
Allowances - -	1,296	2,548	1,500	1,356	1,748	1,454	1,614
Buildings and works	185	1,144	979	780	872	435	397
Agriculture - -	2	137	355	335	146	203	145
Mail service - -	445	—	—	—	450	750	900
Miscellaneous -	1,662	2,898	2,459	2,675	3,174	4,071	2,942
Total - -	10,769	14,975	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000

SS. "Merrie England."

28. During the year ending the 30th June 1895, the "Merrie England" ran 13,315 miles and consumed 595 tons of coal, making an average distance of 22·38 miles for each ton of coal.

The financial year of the steamer ends with the 31st March. The gross total expenditure for the 12 months, including price of new launch, was 8,013*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* Of this 469*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* was met by earnings, leaving a net expenditure of 7,544*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* The Imperial Government provided 3,500*l.* and the three contributing colonies 1,166*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* each for the steamer's maintenance.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1894–5.

A new steam launch for the steamer was purchased in England during the year. The new launch is far superior in power and sea-going qualities to the old launch, and is very useful for coasting and river work. The balance of 544*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, brought over from the previous year, was granted to the Possession for the purpose of being used in defraying the cost of the new launch, and has been expended for that purpose.

METEOROLOGY.

29. The only completed returns for the year that have come to hand in time for insertion in this Report are those from Port Moresby and Daru.* Some incomplete returns have been received from Samarai and Mekeo. Mr. C. Terfloth, who resided for some months continuously on the plateau of the Astrolabe Range, at an elevation of some 2,000 feet above the sea, also furnished some notes. The Astrolabe Range may be said to be the edge of the highlands. From these incompleted returns, and from the Port Moresby and Daru returns, the following comparisons of degrees of heat are made. The thermometer from which the figures were taken was the "Attached thermometer," and the time was 9 a.m., except for the Astrolabe June observations which appear to have been taken at about 7 a.m. The year is 1895.

Locality.	Month.	Highest Record.	Lowest Record.
Astrolabe	May	74·0	70·0
Astrolabe	June	74·4	68·2
Samarai	May	77·0	72·0
Samarai	June	77·0	72·0
Port Moresby	May	83·0	79·0
Port Moresby	June	81·0	74·0
Daru	May	81·3	73·3
Daru	June	79·3	76·3

The lower temperature of the hill country is noticeable. Had the observations been of the lowest temperature in the 24 hours the difference would have been more marked, as the nights are often quite chilly in the hills.

The south-east wind set in very early in 1895, and has been very strong. Although for a short time after the south-east wind sets in in the Port Moresby district it frequently is accompanied by rain, a continuous strong south-east wind is, in the end, apparently productive of very dry weather.

* Not printed.

GOLD-MINING.

30. Gold-mining, as a money-earning industry, did not advance during the year. The alluvial mining was much the same as in the previous year, and although a good deal of labour was spent during the year on the quartz reefs discovered in Sudest, no definite steps had at the end of the year been taken to begin actual quartz-mining. But although mining remained as before, the search for gold-bearing country took a fresh start, and was in progress when the year ended.

A rather feeble attempt was made to find gold in the islands of Normanby and Fergusson. Only two or three men were engaged in this undertaking. Their search did not last long, and they did not go any distance from the seacoast. They did not find any payable gold, but it cannot be said that this is a proof of its non-existence.

In September, 1894, 15 miners arrived from Queensland, went to Bartle Bay on the north-east coast, and searched the hill country at the back of the Bay. The death of one of the party—killed by the hillmen—put an end to the expedition. The country in which they sought for gold is very hilly, not to say mountainous, hard to travel over, and difficult to prospect. The ravines are said to be much filled up with soil that has only recently been washed into them from the surface of the hills. The party found particles of gold here and there, and obtained in all about 7 ozs. of the metal. Four or five of the party subsequently went back to the same localities, but finally joined the next party that came there, and left again.

In the beginning of March, 13 miners came over to the Possession, who were sent in a Government vessel to Bartle Bay. They went inland, joined the few miners who were there, and they all searched the country for some weeks, but without success. All the men then returned to the coast. They were taken in the "Merrie England," and were landed at the head of Goodenough Bay. From that point they made various trips inland in different directions, but did not come across gold. They suffered much from sickness, and in the end went back to Samarai.

On the 10th April a party of miners, under the leadership of Mr. Clarke, an experienced Queensland gold-miner, arrived. They first went to Bartle Bay, but, not considering that country worth their while to prospect, they returned to the coast. After this they proceeded up the north-east coast to the Mambare (Clyde) River. They were still at that river on the 30th June last.

NATIVE CUSTOMS.

31. The Rev. Copland King has forwarded a very complete account of the native customs governing the tenure of land in the Bartle Bay district. Although Mr. King simply calls his paper "Notes on Land Tenure," it contains interesting information on other matters besides land, such as special ownership in fruit trees, ownership in personal property, and the position of children whose parents belong to different tribes. Appendix Q., page 39.

32. Mr. C. E. Kennedy, formerly with the Anglican Mission, contributes a paper on the land tenure of the Taupota district. He also deals with personal property, and gives details relative to the history of the settlement in the district of the people that have occupied it for some time past. Mr. Kennedy's notes are clear and explicit. Appendix R., page 42.

33. Dr. Lamberto Loria has, at the special request of the Resident Magistrate for the Eastern Division, furnished an account of the old war customs of the natives of the island of Logea. Dr. Loria has latterly spent most of his time in obtaining information on the customs of the natives. As will be seen, Dr. Loria explains his use of the present tense in his description of the different customs. In order to render his description life-like, Dr. Loria has also sketched an imaginary war expedition, and in the tale he introduces the various customs as incidents of the expedition. To obtain a reliable account from natives of their customs, and especially of those which they are not now permitted to practise, requires the exercise of much pertinacity and patience. Appendix S., page 44.

34. The Resident Magistrate for the Western Division, Mr. Hely, under the heading of "Notes on Totemism, &c.," gives a number of particulars illustrating native customs. The regarding patches of the marine herbs which form the food of the dugong as private and not as common property is remarkable; although, bearing in mind what a valuable animal to the Western natives the dugong is, the custom is not an eccentric one. It is fortunate that Mr. Hely's interference with the spirits of Daru was not coincident with any calamity, and it is satisfactory to know that the natives at and near Daru have concluded, as natives in other parts of the Possession have likewise done, that the Government is above the influence of the spirits. To anyone who is acquainted with Daru and the coast of the mainland near to Daru, Mr. Hely's account of the superstitious fears inspired by the evil reputation of the island are very interesting. The superiority of Daru over the adjacent country, as well in the elevation of the land as in the fertility of the soil, is so marked that it is difficult, without a clue, to understand why the island was not fully populated by natives instead of, as was the case, possessing a very scanty population. (Appendix T., page 54.)

MISSION WORK.

35. The new training college of the London Missionary Society at Kapa Kapa was established during the year. This entailed much work on the Rev. Dr. Lawes and Mrs. Lawes. The situation is a most suitable one. The buildings are on a hill, from which a fine view is obtained both seaward and landward. The ground attached to the college is fertile, and a fair quantity of it is already under cultivation. The district is a healthy one, the nights being freshened by the breezes that come from the inland ranges.

From the Rev. Mr. Pearse's district some new stations have been formed. This district keeps well to the front in its school and church attendance.

At Kwato many improvements have been effected. It being the object of the Rev. Mr. Abel to have as many young people on the island as circumstances admit, much labour in the way of house building has to be done. Most of these houses are of native material, but more neatly built than the residences of the natives usually are. It is deemed desirable to instil into the natives a liking for good clean houses and orderly surroundings. An industrial plantation has been started near to Kwato. This is to a certain extent connected with the Kwato station, but the cost of this most useful undertaking is borne by Mr. Abel and friends.

The Rev. Mr. Dauncey has been pretty well occupied in putting the station at Delena into working order and in visiting the neighbouring districts. The Rev. Mr. Holmes has been actively engaged in visiting the numerous villages in the Gulf of Papua and, during the absence of the Rev. Mr. Walker, in inspecting the Western district. The latter gentleman left the Possession on leave towards the middle of 1895. One of his duties whilst away is to procure a suitable vessel for the work of the mission in the Western district.

36. The Sacred Heart Mission has had its staff increased during the year, and is steadily establishing new stations in the valley of the St. Joseph River, and improving those already established. The mission wisely furnishes stock—horses and cattle—to its stations, and provides for the liberal cultivation of fruit and vegetables. Unfortunately many of its members, and especially the Sisters, suffer a good deal from sickness. The district, at least in the summer months, is hot and moist, but a fair proportion of the sickness is due apparently to ignorance as to what is the best mode of life for a tropical climate. Most of their people when they first come out have had no experience of a tropical climate.

37. The Anglican Mission is still labouring under the disadvantage of not possessing a sufficient number of members. The Rev. Copland King has had to do most of the work himself. Two natives of the South Sea Islands, who had previously been employed in domestic service in Queensland, were brought over and placed as teachers in the new district, but it seems doubtful if these men will care to stay in the country. They are very respectable men, who certainly show that the life in Queensland has improved them, and they appear to get on very well with the natives. It is satisfactory to observe that this mission is not confining its educational work to knowledge conveyed only in the native language. A visitor to Wedau might be rather surprised to see a naked little urchin reckon up accurately in English a number of objects. Teaching the natives to count in English not only instructs them in that language but enlarges their arithmetical capabilities.

It is much to be regretted that this mission has so far not been able to place stations along the north-east coast northward of Cape Vogel. The more that is known of this coast of the Possession, and of the country at the back of it, the fairer and more ample looms the field that it offers to missionary enterprise.

38. The Wesleyan Mission are carrying on their work with unabated energy. The Rev. Mr. Bromilow, though he has his hands full enough with the multifarious duties that fall to his lot as head of the mission, is always wishing for more coadjutors so that more could be accomplished. At Dobu young native men are now being trained as teachers. If the training turns them out satisfactory teachers, the system is susceptible of being much extended.

The Rev. Mr. Fellowes during the year opened the new station at Kiriwina, in the Trobriand Islands. He and Mr. Andrews are now thoroughly established there. The task that Mr. Fellowes has before him—namely, that of endeavouring to reclaim these cheerful but volatile islanders from ways that, if not very wicked, are at least very immoral and objectionable—is one that would weary most men. But Mr. Fellowes evidently has quite realised all the difficulties, and has not the least intention of giving in to them. Mr. Fellowes's aptitude for acquiring native dialects and his talent for gaining the confidence of natives will no doubt stand him in good stead in this fresh undertaking of his.

The Rev. Mr. Field is busily employed at Tube Tube, where he is taking steps to establish a central school where natives from his district can come and stay for awhile. The Rev. Mr. Fletcher is in charge of Panaieti, and has a wide field before him in the numerous islands that form his district.

GENERAL.

39. A matter which during the year gave the Government much anxiety was the fear of small-pox getting into the country. This disease had made its appearance in German New Guinea in 1893, and by about April, 1894, had on the coast reached within 100 miles of that point on the eastern seaboard of New Guinea that forms the boundary between German and British New Guinea. The Government of the Possession heard nothing of the disease until the end of 1894, when information concerning it was received from his Excellency the Landeshauptmann of German New Guinea. On reflection there appeared to be a reasonable prospect of its not reaching the Possession. As none of the native servants of the Government were at that time vaccinated, it was considered best not to go and ascertain whether the disease had or had not crossed the boundary. It would have been difficult to have ascertained this without bringing some native servants of the Government, to say nothing of European officers, within reach of contagion. The various mission stations in the east were informed of all that the Government knew, and the officers in the east were instructed to be on the alert for any rumour of a disease having made its appearance on the north-east

coast. Fortunately the disease never reached the Possession, and, so far as is known, it has disappeared in German New Guinea. As soon as vaccine lymph was obtained, the constabulary and prisoners, as well as other native servants of the Government, were vaccinated. The Rev. Copland King, whose station is on the north-east coast, also vaccinated some of the natives of his district. The natives did not demur to being vaccinated, and the effects of the vaccination on them were not severe. It is apparently certain that small-pox made its appearance in some parts of the island that are now included within the Possession about a quarter of a century ago. Some of the older natives remember the disease and its baneful effects.

40. In the Annual Report for 1893–1894 reference was made to attacks by unknown hill tribes on coast tribes, which it was pointed out would probably be a source of trouble in the future. Two attacks of this nature took place during the year. The first was a raid made by a band composed of small contingents from the hill tribes at the back of the Astrolabe Range, on a coast village about 30 miles from Port Moresby, the inhabitants of which they nearly exterminated. This raid was certainly a surprise to the Government, as some of the tribes mixed up in it undoubtedly knew of the Government. The ringleaders appear to have been a small hill tribe called the Kaohi. Two expeditions were sent to the Astrolabe. The natives attacked the first and lost some men killed and captured. Much of the work of the second expedition consisted in reassuring natives who had not taken part in the raid. The natives of the range and the country behind it seemed to have awakened to the recollection that there was a Government, and there was a universal scare for some months throughout the district. It is highly improbable that any more raids will be made from this district.

The second attack was made by some of the mountain tribes at the back of Cape Rodney on some people of the Cloudy Bay district. Great difficulty was experienced in finding where this band came from. The locality of one village that had taken part in the attack was at length ascertained, and it was visited. A surprise of the village failed, and the inhabitants escaped to the hills. It was a good distance from this village to where the attack was made, but a native war party, especially when it consists of hillmen, can get over a great deal of even very rough country in two or three days.

The constabulary had a fight during the year with the hillmen of Fergusson Island. But it is doubtful if the hillmen were making a raid on the lowlands, though they had come down with the intention of fighting the coast people.

41. The village constable system has been steadily increased where needed during the year. As a rule the men appointed justify their choice. They are in most cases, when not men who have been in the armed constabulary or in the Government service, men of influence in the villages. Men who through age or through

their possessing a family do not care to leave their districts will readily agree to become village constables. Some of the more experienced of the village constables understand their duties very well. In the large coast villages from Port Moresby to Aroma there are several very efficient men. Not only do they look after their own people, but they learn and inform the Government of any breaches of the law committed inland. They are also quite ready to accompany officers in inland trips. As an instance of their use the following may be given.—On the 30th November last the steamer reached Aroma about 2 p.m. One of the village constables at once came off in a canoe. He was told that two witnesses were wanted from Bilirupu, a village fourteen miles away. He said he would look after the matter. The following morning the Bilirupu village constable and the two witnesses were at Aroma a little after sunrise. A few years ago, even if the witnesses had not, to begin with, run away into the bush, it would have taken at least a couple of days to have got them. A native will believe and have confidence in a village constable who is a relative or friend of his, and he also knows that he cannot easily elude his village constable.

42. A certain amount of occupation of land by private persons took place in the year. A few new European buildings were added to the small settlement at Port Moresby. On the Crown lands at Badili, near Port Moresby, some half-dozen houses, built of indigenous materials, have been erected by natives from different islands of the Pacific who are settled in the Possession. On the Laroki River, 12 miles inland from Port Moresby, an energetic settler has shown that a European can do manual labour, and that European vegetables can be grown even in the lowlands. A small plantation was started on the plateau of the Astrolabe Range, and though apparently it was not a success, the enterprising colonist to whom the plantation belonged had no fault to find with the soil, and was much pleased with the climate of the uplands.

I have, &c.

FRANCIS P. WINTER.

His Excellency
Sir Arthur Hunter Palmer, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.
Lieutenant-Governor of Queensland.

APPENDIX Q.

NOTES on NATIVE TENURE and other CUSTOMS of the BARTLE BAY DISTRICT, by the Rev. COPLAND KING, of the Anglican Mission.

The following paper contains the results of inquiries made in the villages of Wedau and Wamira, Bartle Bay, on the north-east coast of British New Guinea. The subjects treated follow in general order the questions on native land tenure issued by the Government in 1893.

The position of the lands of the Wamira tribe is on the west shore of Bartle Bay. On the shore to the south-east the gully Iwagani divides Wamira from Divari. The boundary then runs to the foot of the hills, crossing the river Uruam, and westward to Mulawa. The hills called Kalovai, the next place to Mulawa, are Wedau property. Then the boundary runs nearly due north, approaching the river Wamira, until it comes near Keva, on the shore. Here it takes a turn eastwards, and runs at the back of the shore villages Poai and Kaieta, and finally reaches the shore at Iabari, where a "Mapa" tree is planted as a sign of the boundary. Wedau land extends from its Wamira boundary westwards. And the Wedau people still have rights in land and plantations at Daba, at the foot of Agi mountain, some six miles to the west, though the mountains between Wedau and Daba are generally hunted by the natives who live beyond the latter place. It was at Daba that the ancestors of the majority of these two tribes once lived. Apparently the grandfathers of the middle-aged men were born at Daba. But, in order to escape the constant incursions of the mountaineers, the whole Daba tribe moved eastwards. Some of them settled in Wamira, purchasing what land they required from the original inhabitants, and paying for it with pigs. Sometimes, when members of the original families try to taunt the descendants of the colonists with the ground not belonging to them, the answer is given: "We (*i.e.*, our ancestors) paid for it when we came, and you said the payment was sufficient." The Wamirans, however, soon found that they were rather crowded, as up till that time they had lived at the north end of their district only, called Wadubo. (In the dialect this word means old.) So a good many of them moved up the bay, and formed the Ruma-ruma settlement. At present the approximate population of Wadubo is 177, and of Ruma-ruma 206. The emigrants from Daba, who did not join the Wamira tribe, settled along the shore between the Wamira boundary and the Wamira River, but, not liking the place on account of its being very much exposed to winds and waves, they soon moved to the more sheltered position to the west of the Wamira River. This Wedau village derives its name from a patch of ground within its limits. The Wamira River now runs entirely in Wedau ground, but the name may possibly have belonged to the original inhabitants before the Daba people divided the land with them. Wedau people

generally speak of Wamira as Papairina, and the people on the other side of Goodenough Bay have other names for both these villages.

It is necessary to understand the family system among these people. It will be noticed that I have used the word "tribe" to signify the community living in Wedau or in Wamira. The distinction between these two communities is very strongly marked. The Rev. A. A. Maclaren, during his short residence here, noticed several points of contrast. The language, however, is identical, except with regard to occasional words, which for some reason or other have become tabooed in one or other village. As will be seen further on, there is no hard-and-fast line separating the tribes. But the division into families is also of great social importance. It is difficult to find a native word to describe the different districts, coastal or mountain; but the word "Dam," which signifies what I venture to call the family, is of very common use. Each "Dam," has its own specific name, "Bariawa," and it is composed of members related to each other through their mothers. The Dam is not necessarily confined to one tribe. There are about a dozen of them in Wedau; these are mostly repeated in Wamira, and the original inhabitants have theirs in addition. Any woman marrying into another district takes her family name with her, and the children may belong to their father's tribe but their mother's family. In each tribe, as a rule, the members of one family live in one division of the village, but those who are married may either be living with their spouses in their division or may have brought their spouses to live with them. Marriage within the family is strictly forbidden. All of similar age are reckoned as brothers and sisters. Marriage is also forbidden to those who are closely related through the father; but the father never belongs to his children's family, and therefore some parental offices and responsibilities devolve on the mother's brother. Descent, therefore, is chiefly matriarchal. All landed property is vested in the family, and the head of the family has the distribution of it, and is the representative for it, but has no power to alienate it of his own will.

Thus the tribal planting-grounds have been originally allotted to the different families; and, as every season successive portions are taken up, the old landmarks are remembered. But within these boundaries the representative of the family allots to each member of it the ground on which he is to grow his food. And a man may portion out to his sons some of his own family land, although they belong to another family. Apart from these planting-grounds, the other land is divided among the families, and each man may take up any land in his family property for banana patches. It may be said that the land only belongs to a man in its usufruct. When he dies his crop is divided up among his sons and his sister's children.

When strangers come to settle in a village they can generally find relations to lend them land. And sometimes when the tribes

want to cultivate land which is not allotted as the ordinary planting-grounds, but vested in a family, payment may be made to the representative owners, in food, when the crop is ripe.

Village ground is also thus divided among the different families, as I have already explained. And a man may build either in his wife's division or his own. But he only owns the ground by virtue of his occupation of it.

Fruit trees are private property, and may descend to the children and sister's children. A man may plant fruit trees on land which does not belong to him without forfeiting ownership in the tree. The owner of the land will look after the tree, and be paid for his services with some of its fruit. He has no right to destroy it in any way.

The rivers are said to be no one's special property. Anyone may fish in them, or may knot grass on the banks as a sign that he intends to make his dam for fishing there. Sometimes when one set of people made the dam, another lot will come and share the benefits of it by fishing in the same place. Lagoons and ponds are family property. In hunting, the family has control over its own grass lands, so far as to say when the grass is to be burnt. But anyone may join in the wallaby hunt, and any wild animal killed belongs to the man who killed it.

A woman marrying into another tribe loses her rights in her own, unless she lives near enough to do the work required on her own land. Very often she and her husband live together, part of their time in one village and part in the other. They keep up a double connection. There is no definite rule about the tribe to which the children should belong. Even after their parents are dead they may still spend their time between their father's relations and their mother's relations, and have their allotments in each. It depends on how their friends treat them, and when they grow up they generally belong to the tribe in which they have spent most of their time or into which they may marry.

The boundaries between the tribes seem to be settled definitely now. There is no talk of any possible alteration, nor has anything ever been heard about land being taken away in war or paid in compensation for an injury.

The work at the planting-grounds may be classed as follows:—

1. Tribal: such work as will benefit the whole ground—as the irrigation works.

2. Family: such heavy work as mowing and turning over the soil.

3. Individual: as breaking up the clods and planting. The women take their share with the men in the heavy work occasionally, and attend to the weeding. When extra help is required the family assist and are paid in food.

Ownership in live stock is sometimes personal and sometimes is vested in the household, but not in the family ("Dam") or community. A father and his son may be part owners in a pig

and each will speak of it as his property. A litter of pigs seems generally to be shared out among the household so far as they will go.

COPLAND KING.

APPENDIX R.

NOTES on NATIVE LAND TENURE and other CUSTOMS of the NATIVES of TAUPOTA and NEIGHBOURHOOD, by Mr. C. E. KENNEDY.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, as under, for the information of the Administrator, with regard to the subject of native land tenure by the tribe of Taupoto in the district of north-east coast.

Particulars.

1. Position of the lands of the tribe: Situated on the north-east coast, about 20 miles from East Cape and about 10 from Cape Frere.

2. Boundaries of lands of the tribe: Emurimuri Point on the east, and a small point known as Iwa Mutuna on the west.

3. How long have they been in occupation? The grandparents of the present old men of the tribe lived in the present Taupota villages. They do not know whether their great grandparents lived in the present villages or on the hills. The Taupota tribe formerly lived on the mountains, and what is now known as Taupota was uninhabited land, without a name, and there were no cocoanut trees planted. After the tribe had increased, the people migrated to the beach and planted cocoanuts, &c., and formed villages, and the new settlement was called Taupota. The old Taupota now consists of about half-a-dozen houses only, and an enormous number of graves, and is usually called Hidaua. It is about 600 feet above sea-level, and a large number of cocoanut trees are growing there. It is not far inland—easily seen from the sea.

4. Aboriginal owners do not recognise any other rights.

5. Are planting lands allotted? Forest land has no owners. A person may go where he pleases (either on the hills or on the flat) and make a plantation, and it then becomes the property of his family only. When parents die the property descends to all the children. Each family has a number of plantations. When a man marries, all his friends go out and clear ground to make a plantation for him and wife.

6. Is individual ownership recognised? No. Children are joint-owners with their parents of the plantations.

7. What land is held in common by the tribe? None.

8. Is family individual property hereditary? If so, does it descend in the direct line or in a collateral line? Yes. It descends in a collateral line.

9. Do women own land? Not individually. Unmarried women say that they are joint-owners of their parents' plantations. When a girl marries she is given a portion of her parents' plantation, but it is as much her husband's and children's property as her own.

10. Does it ever descend in the female line? Yes.

11. Do they sell or exchange land? No. No Taupota person ever heard of such a thing.

12. Do they lend or lease land? No.

13. Are all fruit and sago trees private property or common property? Private property.

14. Do soil and the trees on it always belong to the same owner? No. In Taupota, near the Mission Station, a man planted cocoanuts in another person's village (with landowner's permission.) The landowner has now no right whatever to these trees.

15. Is there private property in water, or in fishing or hunting rights? No.

16. Is land ever paid as compensation to an aggrieved person? No.

17. How is land given to native strangers settling in the tribe? Never given under any circumstances.

18. When a woman owning land marries a man of another tribe, does her husband become owner of the land? If so, does he live in her tribe or in his own? (1.) No. (2.) The man and woman live in both tribes, a few week or months in one village, and then back to the other tribe. They also have plantations in each tribe's district.

19. How is such land inherited? Do the children belong to the woman's tribe or to the man's tribe? (1.) It is inherited by the children. (2.) They belong to the woman's tribe.

The answers to these two questions refer to village land. As regards plantations the husband would become joint owner. (*See* question 5.)

21. Does the tribe give its name to the land or *vice versâ*? Tribe gives name to land. Until Taupoto tribe took possession of land where present villages are, the land had no name.

22. Is planting communal or individual? Neither; family.

24 Are pigs, fowls, and dogs individual or communal property? Family property.

25. Are house sites the private property of individuals; and if so, has this property any specific name. (1.) No. (2.) No.

26. Is land taken away in war? No.

28. Can a person bequeath his land to one not a blood relation, or not a member of his own tribe? No.

29. Can an owner divide his planting land equally among his children, or give it all to one? Goes to all the children equally; never given all to one.

31. *Remarks.*—A man from Wamira tribe has settled in Taupota, and is to marry a Taupota girl, but he will never be the owner of any village land in Taupota. He will live in his wife's village and she, not he, will be the owner of the place.

The man however, may make a plantation on vacant land anywhere, and it will become his property; also people will give him taro tops to plant, and cocoanuts.

C. E. KENNEDY,
Lay Missionary, Taupoto.

November 20th, 1894.

APPENDIX S.

NOTES on the ANCIENT WAR CUSTOMS of the NATIVES OF LOGEA and NEIGHBOURHOOD, by DR. LAMBERTO LORIA.

DEAR MORETON, Dobu, 10 April, 1895.

THE aim of this letter of mine is to write you on the customs of the inhabitants of Logea, thus fulfilling my promise to give you some information on some past native customs gathered by me, which you may use if you like.

As you know, I am spending all my time now in studying the natives from an anthropometrical and anthropological standpoint—viz., in measuring the natives and trying to get hold of their customs and habits the best that I can. In some places, as in Mailu, Vilirupu, &c., I have been obliged to have native or Polynesian teachers as interpreters. Therefore my information as regards those places is not so reliable as that which I can give you now, on the accuracy of which I can rely. Let me in a few words explain how it is that I am so sure of the accuracy of my statements.

As you know, I arrived last year at this end as a guest of the Rev. T. W. Walker, who very kindly has assisted me in every possible way in my work. The Rev. C. W. Abel, whom I scarcely knew then, soon saw that my work if thoroughly done would be of great assistance to him in his mission, and invited me to spend some time at Kwato to gather information concerning the customs of Logea. It is useless for me to say that I gladly accepted the invitation, and spent over two months doing nothing else but inquiring into the native customs. The Rev. C. W. Abel is very well qualified to do this kind of work in the most satisfactory manner. You must not think that he confined himself to literally translating my questions. He put many others on his own account, and, what is most important, was never satisfied with an uncertain answer. Often he told me—"We must drop "this question now; the natives are puzzled; we had better "return to this subject by-and-by." Besides, he is never satisfied with his work and himself. Therefore we sometimes spent fully an hour in getting an answer to one single question. This, of course, leads to a certain loss of time, but on the other hand gives a great weight to any information obtained in this way.

To all this you must add that, by the Rev. C. W. Abel's influence, we had a gang of old men who have been all bad men in

the past, and have indulged in war, cannibalism, &c., and all the evils peculiar to these natives. Now, although in a certain degree ashamed of their past life, they have been willing to give us all the information that we asked. Every answer to our questions has been discussed amongst themselves before being put on paper. The Rev. C. W. Abel, who, as you know, speaks their language very well, was able to follow every discussion word for word, and could therefore know what weight to put on the answer. Now that I have given to the Rev. C. W. Abel the credit which is due to him, let me speak on the war customs of Logea.

Logea, one of the largest islands of the archipelago around Samarai, is inhabitated by natives who belong to a tribe called Duhuni, which is spread along the south-east coast of British New Guinea, between Mugula (Dufaure Island) and Doine at the east of Sariba, where one language is spoken with many dialects.

Besides the intertribal wars, which occurred very often, the tribe had as its enemies the inhabitants of Milne Bay on one side and those of Mailu on the other, and also the natives dwelling in the interior. All the members of the tribe were supposed to assist each other in their troubles and fights against their enemies. The offence committed on a single individual or a village was considered to have been made on the whole of the tribe, and to be avenged on any member of the tribe to which the offender belonged. It is easily perceived that, under these circumstances, war was the main business of these natives. No sound sleep could be enjoyed, and some natives have told me that, before the arrival of the whites, they were wont to sleep sitting with their spears in their right hand, ready to defend themselves in case of an attack. Sham fights were held daily. In these fights villages were attacked unexpectedly, prisoners were taken, and a small payment was given to redeem the prisoner. It was really quite a miserable life of continual anxiety.

The whole of the causes of war may be given in two divisions:—1, Homicide; 2, the naming of the dead relations of others. It may be interesting to you, as a magistrate, to know how small a cause could lead to homicide. Let me, then, give a list of many different cases of which war is the result. In describing these I have, as you will notice, used the present tense for convenience, though, of course, I am describing what took place in the past:—

1. In the case of adultery committed by the woman, the lover is invariably killed by the injured husband, even years after the offence has taken place.

2. It is the custom in this tribe to buy canoes, pigs, &c, and pay for them little by little. If, after one of such purchases, the buyer wilfully forgets to fulfil his duty towards the seller after the latter has reminded him of his debt, he is killed by him.

3. If a handsome young man, visiting a village, has the misfortune to conquer the hearts of too many women, and the girls manifest the desire that he should be their husband, and the

married women express the wish that he was theirs, the men of the village, jealous of him, and angry for the place that he has usurped in the women's affections, kill the handsome Adonis.

4. Suicide committed by a man after a great quarrel with his wife by going unarmed to an enemy's village, where he will certainly be killed.

5. Sometimes, after war between two villages has waged with no result on either side, peace is made by the offended party, to enable them, after a little while, to kill some of their enemies when visiting them peacefully.

6. During the time of feasts the natives generally boast of their war feats. In doing this it may happen that a person, during the excitement of his talk, may offend another by despising his actions, and the offended one will kill him in return.

7. Two young men, talking of their love exploits, may by boasting offend each other's vanity. A quarrel ensues, which becomes larger and larger in proportion to the assistance that each man receives from his relatives and friends, and death may occur.

8. Homicides committed to obtain another person's property. This happens without any provocation. For instance, a person sitting in the middle of a path is busy putting in order or clearing his basket. He is seen by a new-comer, whose eyes are taken by some objects contained in the basket. This is quite sufficient to induce the new-comer to kill the unfortunate native.

9. If a young man finds that a girl whom he wishes to marry has a fancy for another man he kills him, thus succeeding in removing the obstacle to his desires.

10. Homicide committed for the sake of starting war with a certain village.

11. When an event occurs, such as a strong wind, continual rain, &c., which injures the crops, or prevents the people from going out fishing or hunting, or an epidemic, &c., they attribute this to the witchcraft performed by some sorcerers (male or female) of a certain tribe, and war is made accordingly.

12. An expedition made having a mere cannibal purpose from no cause whatever.

13. Sometimes the nearest relation of a quarrelsome man who has impoverished him and his family, by obliging them to pay many a time the payment (poadi) which is due to the offended party, arranges with his enemies to kill the troublesome relative. After having done so he soon repents, and war is waged to avenge the murder.

14. The phrase "Tamamiu se mate O" (Your fathers are dead), said to a person is considered a direct challenge to fight, and has to be avenged by the death of the man who pronounced these awful words, or that of some of his relatives or friends.

No custom was and is observed so strictly as the one which prevents the pronunciation of the names of dead persons in the presence of their relatives, or any allusion to their death. A case came under my notice which shows how strictly they observe this custom.

A native went on an errand to Port Moresby. Soon after this his brother died. The news, of course, reached the party to which he belonged; but nobody dared to tell him anything. Months passed in that way. When he returned to his village he was met on the beach by all his relatives and friends crying. The man knew at once that some death had occurred during his absence. He had only to observe which of his relatives was missing from the weeping crowd to know with certainty for which relative he had to mourn.

The natives of Logea have two words which we could translate war; one, "Iiara," for a war between themselves and a foreign village, and "Homari," to designate an intertribal war. In the former the enemy was generally eaten. In the latter the slain person was, on the contrary, buried; and if death did not occur and a person was wounded, peace was quickly established by giving presents to the wounded person, and the offender always went to nurse and assist the man during his illness. In order to give a clear account of a war expedition, I will now furnish an imaginary sketch of one that might have taken place in times past.

We will suppose now that a canoe of Logea people, when on a visit to a foreign village, was treacherously attacked, and one of the natives killed; the others who succeeded in escaping the massacre run away, and when they feel themselves safe, stow away all their ornaments, wash themselves from the cocoanut oil or paint which they may have used to ornament their body, and approach their village paddling very slowly. When close to it, they cease paddling, and start wailing in the peculiar monotonous singing tune of these natives, while the relatives of the murdered person, who may be on board the canoe, are lying on it as if they were asleep. The natives who are on the beach meet them with their canoes, asking: "Edoha?" (What has happened?) "Tauwa" (a man) is the reply to them, and if they do not understand who is the person killed, they name him to them, not by his name, but by a phrase as so-and-so's father, or so-and-so's brother.

After landing, the natives meet at the dead man's house, and start crying, and this they do until one of them, jumping on the platform, makes a speech to the audience on the necessity of avenging the death, being strong and brave, and going to meet the enemy, capture them, kill them, and so on. After him, other persons speak to the public in the same way, and war is decided upon.

Meanwhile all the gardens and plantations of cocoanuts and betel-nuts, &c., belonging to the murdered person are destroyed, to allow the relatives and friends to forget quickly the departed person. It is not to be inferred by this that the natives do not feel keenly love, sorrow, &c. They are to be compared to children who, although feeling very much the grief, are ready to laugh one minute after crying. Besides, the memory of a person of their own tribe being murdered is painful to them; it reminds them of a defeat, and they try, therefore, to forget it as soon as they can.

This is different as regards the nearest relative of the murdered man, who keeps the Toboa (*o* followed by *a* in Logean dialect has a very short sound, and could almost be substituted by a *w*. Toboa, for instance, has to be pronounced similarly to Tobwa, although a distinct *o* sound is heard before the *a*). The Toboa is a set of two or three baskets one inside the other, and in which the natives put their precious things.

As soon as the news of the murder spreads through the tribe, natives from all parts go to the village of the dead person, ready to take part in the war. On any new arrival all cry a little in honour of the dead, and fresh speeches are made, to keep up the enthusiasm and readiness to fight. When they think they are sufficiently numerous, and the Tanuwa gana has collected enough food, a feast called "Hiwoga" is held.

Tanuwa'gana means, to use a slang word, "boss," and, in this case, is the nearest relation of the murdered man. The "boss" of the feast, Hiwoga, as we shall soon see, will pay the successful warriors and so on. The word "Tanuwa'gana" has a very wide meaning; but in this letter I will use it only to denote the nearest relation of the murdered man, who has a large part to lay in all which relates to war.

During the feast, Hiwoga, the war canoes lie in a row on the beach, and the Tanuwa'gana distributes the food to each canoe. These are then put into the water. In each canoe one man having, a branch of babaga (a kind of croton), walks up and down the canoe shaking the babaga, which he afterwards throws on the beach for the purpose of frightening the spirits away, but may at the time dwell in the canoe. He then repeats the operation, but on this occasion sticks the branch of babaga at one end of the canoe to make it light to paddle.

When all the canoes are launched, one native rises and pronounces the following prayer to the man living in the moon called Eaboahine:—

1st Verse.

Eaboahine e ku gebe gauma metau
Poroporohe gu ku tauiei.

2nd Verse.

Eaboahine e ku tauiegu eauna ku
Piriegu pirika be pitagu be
Piriunu'unuagu be.

After each verse the warriors who sit in the canoes make a terrible noise. Some beat the canoes with sticks, others the drums with their hands, others blow the conch-shell (boagigi).

The natives have not been able to tell me where Eaboahine comes from, and how it is that he lives in the moon. They have stopped all my enquiries by saying to me, pointing to the moon: "We have never been there; but don't you see his two eyes, his "nose, and his mouth?"

When the invocation to Eaboahine is finished, they ask the women who are on the beach if they have heard any noise. If the answer is in the affirmative they go to the war delighted with the certainty of vanquishing their enemies. If the women say that they did not hear anything, they start half-heartedly and are sure to come back a short time afterwards and give up the idea of the expedition. It is clear from this that women can stop a war expedition whenever they like.

Much care is taken during the voyage not to be seen by the enemy. Should the expedition be obliged to camp during the night, they land one canoe after the other without pronouncing a single word and no fire is lit.

When close to the village, some of the bravest men (they are called Tau Tahutahuloro) go to spy on the enemy and report.

Early in the morning, much before the sun has risen, two warriors (called Boe) lead the way. Very cautiously they advance whilst all the other men stand still. After a few hundred yards, one of the Boe remains where he is; the other rushes back to the crowd of warriors to let them know that they may advance. When they meet the other Boe they stop to let the two Boe go first as previously. If the Boe who stays on guard sees an enemy coming towards him, he rushes back to his companions, who in this case hide themselves in the bush, wait till the solitary enemy is close to them, and all at once attack and capture or kill him.

During the times that the warriors are thus advancing, the canoes, guided by the children and old men who (although accompanying the expedition, are not fit to fight) follow them, and stop in front of the village, to cut off the retreat by sea.

When the warriors are close to the village, they divide into three or four parties, surround the village, attack it by surprise if they can, capture and kill as many people as they are able, steal anything on which they can lay their hands (dogs, pigs, native ornaments, &c.), damage the plantations and gardens, burn the village, and so on, all this being accompanied by the most infernal yelling and shouting.

This happens, of course, when the attacking party completely routs its opponents. But this seldom occurs. It has to be borne in mind that war is made to avenge *one* person's death. Therefore, when the assailants succeed in capturing or killing *one* person they do not care to run the risk of losing any of their men, and gladly listen to the voice of any one of them who says, "Let us go back and eat him" and return to their canoes carrying with them the slain or captured person, where, whilst dancing, yelling, beating canoes and drums, blowing the conch-shell, they sing the following song:—

1st Verse.

Didiara botanina se doudou lele se
Lelei O.

2nd Verse.

Dituna eanuaia se ulea ku bunaia
Besa inodunodua kabo se doudou
Lele.

In the midst of this terrible noise the canoes are paddling slowly away, enjoying the sight of the natives on the beach wailing for their losses.

The prisoners' hands are pierced right through; a string is passed through these holes, and the hands tied together at the back. The arms and legs are also tied at two or three different places, thus preventing the prisoner from running away. During all the voyage back the prisoner is laughed at; he is taunted with the prospect of torture and death, and reminded that his flesh will be eaten.

When the successful war party is close to the village from whence it started, the Tanuwa'gana goes ashore and brings some small gifts to the persons who have captured or killed or assisted in capturing or killing, the enemy.

The canoes stopping in a row in the shallow water, the persons who have captured or killed an enemy stand up at the bows of the canoes, having the captured or killed enemy at their feet; one spear on the right hand and a few more spears in the left, whilst every body sings the following song, interrupting every verse with beating their drums and canoes, blowing the conch-shell, and so on:—

1st Verse.

Kamutekamute ia sawa be goala ea soki.

2nd Verse.

Ea guri kawa moamoadu ea besa eoaeoari.

When the corpses or prisoners are thrown into the water, where they are picked up by the people waiting on the beach, who, without touching them with their hands, stick spears into their bodies and carry them ashore, taking great care not to kill the prisoners.

Each of the prisoners or corpses is then put on a mat (Dem). A rope, secured to a tree, is passed round the neck to cause the prisoner or corpse to sit with the head erect. Two persons each take one hand, and, keeping it down, prevent any movement from the prisoner. The nearest female relation to the man who had to be avenged steps forward, having a native fork (a mere sharp-pointed stick) in her right hand. First of all she undresses herself of all the mourning ornaments that she has, and puts them on the prisoner. He has to pay with his life for the loss of her murdered relative; it is right, then, that he should wear the mourning ornaments. When close to the prisoner or corpse the woman says, "Is it with this right eye that you have seen my

" son [or brother, &c.] captured? Is it with this right eye that " you saw him cut to pieces, cooked and eaten? Well, this is the " payment (maisana) for it," and with the native fork she pierces the right eye of the prisoner. All the women who were related to the murdered Logea man follow one after the other and torture the prisoner or mutilate the corpse, whilst the natives around enjoy the scene.

After this the prisoner or corpse is wrapped up with dry cocoanut leaves and hoisted up about a fathom from the ground, and then a firestick is applied to the leaves which warp up the feet, and the body is burnt. When the rope by which the body is hung is burnt and the body falls on the ground the wildest and most savage scene takes place. The natives rush with knives in their hands, each of them cutting a piece off the body—which may be still alive—in the midst of diabolical noise and yells of rejoicing.

All the prisoners and corpses brought after a war belong to the Tanuwa'gana, who has to pay for them. For every person captured or killed he has to pay three very large payments; one for the skull, one for the jaw, and a third for the neck. No man in the island is rich enough to pay with his own goods one of these three payments. He has to be assisted by all his relatives, and the payments, although handed over to the man who first threw the spear at and wounded the enemy, or put his hand on him to capture him, are practically divided amongst all the people who have assisted this man in his work. Even those who threw the body into the sea when in front of the village get their share of it. The Tanuwa'gana always keeps the first vertebræ, with which he makes an armlet, the jaw, for the same purpose, and the skull, which he hangs in the house, or puts on a post fixed to his canoe, as a trophy.

The Tanuwa'gana being the owner of the prisoners, he may, if he chooses, save their lives. In such case the prisoner becomes his nearest relation (father, or mother, or child, or brother, or sister, considering sex and age), and is treated accordingly. The Tanuwa'gana never marries a female prisoner, in the same way that he cannot marry his mother, sister, or daughter. This mild and kind manner of treating their prisoners will, no doubt, surprise you, as it has astonished me, especially if you compare it with their cruel manner of putting the prisoners to death. The natives explain this apparent contradiction very satisfactorily. "We have," they say, "already taken our revenge on somebody else; our minds are satisfied; we have pity for the poor prisoner, so that we treat him well."

Every man going to fight has to submit himself to a certain diet, with the double purpose of acquiring strength and of losing all the fat that he may have, so as to enable him to jump easily here and there to avoid the spears thrown at him. Therefore—

(1.) He preserves chastity.

(2.) He drinks a quantity of salt water as an aperient.

(3.) He eats no animal food, and of vegetables he takes only taro (odo), yam (apoe), cocoanuts (niu), and sago (rabia). His food may be boiled or roasted, but has to be mixed with ginger (saiara), which they believe will give strength. They also take great care not to eat enough to satisfy their appetite. They really starve themselves to become thin and agile. They are so particular on this point that should any of them be stout when going to fight, his companions will not allow him to land.

(4.) He burns the plant Gabusihesihehe, sitting over the fire while doing so, believing that this will make him light and agile.

Although in the feast Hiwoga all sorts of food are put in the war canoes, the warriors are careful not to touch any which is tabooed to them. Those who accompany the war expedition and do not fight may, of course, eat anything.

After the fight this taboo is broken. Those who have captured or killed, or assisted in capturing or in killing, some enemies have no further need to become thin and strong, but they have to avoid the odour of the blood (osinana) of the captured or slain, which odour will give them a disease called osinana that will cause them to die. They accordingly shut themselves up for about a week in their houses, where food, cooked in special pots, is brought to them. They may eat vegetable food only, and must avoid any intercourse with their wives and friends, so as not to smell the blood.

When the natives think that the smell of the blood has entirely disappeared, the warriors thus shut up in their houses give to the Tanuwa'gana a feast called Kepokepo, in which they take no part, although they witness it from a distance, adorned with all their best ornaments. The following day the Tanuwa'gana returns the compliment with a feast called Sisimoagodu (sisimoa = native fork, godu = to break) in which he, when dividing the food, after putting some of it in a dish for the warriors, breaks the native fork as a sign that they (the warriors) can at last touch the food with their hands, which they could not do previously. This is the end of the privations of the warriors.

A long time after this (it may be two or three years), when the Tanuwa'gana has succeeded in gathering the payments for those who have been captured or killed, he gives a last feast, called Moahari, in which the payments are given and divided as above described.

The weapons, which are generally kept in a house called bosim, are the spear (wamari), the shield (iesi), the club (kelepa), stones (weku) which are often thrown from a sling (ropeu), and a special tomahawk called baewatena, used for cutting the enemies' heads off, should they have no time or means to carry the whole body away.

The custom, so common amongst Papuans, of marking in some way the spear which has killed or wounded an enemy, or the knife with which heads of enemies have been cut off, and so on, does not prevail here.

It is very strange that at Logea they have no ornaments (as the beak of the hornbill—a bunch of cockatoo feathers, amongst Motuans) which the warrior who has killed or assisted in killing an enemy wears at the dances, and which no other person may wear.

Although now all the villages of Logea are on the beach, and with no fortifications, the natives tell me that in ancient times the villages were not to be found on the coast, and that they were all surrounded by a pallisade (tona), and had a tree-house (siwasiwa), where a good quantity of spears and stones were kept. Close to each village, and in some paths leading to it, trap-holes (purubekubeku) were made, and pointed sticks (sio) were hidden to wound the enemies' feet.

It may be interesting to you to know how these natives manage to make peace after a war.

When the losses on both sides were equal, peace followed as a natural consequence.

If the Logeans could not have their revenge, although the war was lasting a long time, treachery was resorted to. They would beg another tribe, at that time on good terms with their enemies, to assist them, and these friends would let them know when one of their enemies was on a visit to them, thus enabling the Logeans to fall on him and capture or kill him, or they themselves would capture the man and hand him over to the Logeans. By doing this, they secure for themselves the large payment that the Tanuwa'gana has to give.

The readiness of any native to take part in a war, or to assist by treachery one of his friends in injuring another friend, must not be a surprise to you. The motive of this is the prospect of the large payment which is due to any person who has assisted the nearest relation of a dead person to have his revenge. This I know from a distinct confession made to me by the natives.

Should one party be tired of war, word is sent by some common friends to the other party, and then the latter appoint a day for settling their disputes; and at the appointed time, all armed and ready to fight, they go with their war canoes close to the enemy's village, and, stopping a few yards from the beach, one of them stands up and tells the people who are gathered there that they have come to make peace or to wage war, as the others may chose. The Chief of the people on the beach answers that it is quite true that they are ready to make peace, and will be delighted to do so. Then one of the warriors who has killed or captured one of the other party shouts, "I have killed a man—so-and-so's brother; where is his nearest relative?" and, saying this, he hands over to the nearest relation a very big gift (which has its special name—Poadi). And so does everyone who made the enemy suffer a loss. As soon as these gifts are interchanged, the people ashore, in the midst of a tremendous noise, break their spears; and the same is done by the other party, who then comes ashore, where a feast called Enima Kaikai is held, in which food is interchanged.

It is not infrequently the case that the party begging for peace breaks its spears even before the arrival of its enemies. In every such case the same performances take place.

With the Enima Kaikai the war ends; so will my letter. Do not think that I have exhausted the subject; far from it. It is for this reason that I wrote these customs as an epistle, which will convey the idea that it is not a complete work. To give you an instance of the necessity for a far longer statement to complete the subject, I will only say that the phrase "the nearest relation," which very often occurs in my letter, could lead me to speak of the great influence of the women in all matters concerning native life, and how it is that many Logeans are not considered *true* Logeans by the natives, although their parents, grandparents, great grandparents, and even great great grandparents were Logean natives. I also say, in a very general way and incidentally that the natives have some ornaments which they use in war. No mention is made of what these ornaments are, how they are worn, and of what materials and how they are made. Nor do I mention the part that the sorcerer and witch have in a war expedition. The bosim that I mention above also leads me to mention that it is in it that the men assemble to indulge in filthy talk, and a very interesting comparison could be made between the morals of these natives and those which are to be found in the Central Division, showing how these natives are in every way superior to the others.

Besides, you must not expect from me any well prepared work. I am here to study the natives, not to write on their customs. I will do so by-and-by when at home, where I will have all the time to arrange my work, consult books, and so on. Accept, then, this letter as a mere translation of my hurried notes and as a sign of friendship from

Yours sincerely,

LAMBERTO LORIA.

To the Hon. M. H. Moreton,
Resident Magistrate of the Eastern Division,
Samarai.

APPENDIX T.

NOTES on TOTEMISM, &c., among the WESTERN TRIBES, by Mr. B. A. HELY, Resident Magistrate for the Western Division.

Amongst the coast tribes of this district the term for "tabu" is "sabi." I propose under the above heading to give some information concerning the superstitions, charms, &c., of the people, which may be of interest to readers.

The principal "sabi" is that connected with the names of relatives by marriage (Emapura). A man may not mention the name of his wife's father, mother, elder sister, or elder brother, nor of any male or female relative of her father or mother, so long as

such relative is a member of the same tribe. The names of his wife's younger brothers or sisters are not "sabi" to him.

The same law applies to a woman in connection with her husband's relatives.

As a general rule this "sabi" does not extend outside the tribal boundaries. That is, when a woman or man marries out of her or his tribe the "sabi" is not generally applied. Also when members of one tribe who are "Emapura" to each other are away from their own territory the "sabi" need not necessarily be observed.

Any relatives of a man or woman may by protest exempt themselves from the "Emapura" at the time of the marriage if there has been any quarrel between them and one of the parties to the marriage.

When "Emapura" has been accepted, a breach of the "sabi" has to be paid for, the offender paying a fine to the person offended. If the "sabi" is not mended by payment, neither the offender nor the person offended may, in the case of males, enter the "man-house" until the breach has been repaired. The offended party could of old recover his status by taking a head.

No "sabi" (or copyright) is applied to songs, dances, or tales. They are common property.

Cocoanut and sago trees are "sabied" by marks. Each individual in a tribe has separate marks. Cocoanut trees are generally "sabied" to prevent the fruit being taken by the owner or others, so that a number of dry nuts may accumulate. The "sabi" is also applied to prevent theft. In the same way sago trees are "sabied" to allow of their coming to full maturity. The trees are not "sabied" for deaths; but, when a person dies, one cocoanut tree from which he or she has in life used the fruit is cut down by the relatives. This custom has ceased where the law against cutting down cocoanut trees has been applied.

Sago trees are not cut down when deaths occur.

No garden produce is "sabi," not even against theft. When a garden has been robbed, the owner places a skewer of bamboo in the track near to the garden. The skewer is fixed in the following fashion:—A hole nearly as deep as the length of the skewer is dug, then half the shell of a cocoanut is placed in it as a rest for the skewer, to prevent it sinking when trodden upon. The stake is then placed in position with the point projecting about an inch above ground; the point is then covered lightly with loose soil and leaves. If the offender returns to renew his depredations he probably treads on the skewer, which causes lameness, thus revealing his identity.

Roads and tracks are "sabied" by placing a dried cocoanut on a stake which is stuck in the ground on the track. This "sabi" is strictly observed. People are afraid of meeting with accident or death if they take a "sabied" road.

Drinking water or approaches to it are never "sabied," water being an absolute necessary of life, and the common property of

all people wheresoever situated. Firewood is never "sabied," for the same reason.

Three articles only of animal food may have the "sabi" applied to them—viz., alligator, cassowary, and dog. The "sabi" in these cases is generally inherited, probably arising from some accident, illness, or other misfortune met with at some time by ancestors of the people to whom the foods are now "sabi." The "sabi" is generally strictly observed, but is subject to alterations. For instance, the father of Kasavi and man could not eat either cassowary or alligator. The sons divided the "sabi," cassowary being forbidden food to man, and alligator to Kasavi. Duani, chief of Mawatta, is forbidden to eat dog. The latter animal, although recognised as an article of food, is not much used as such by the coast people, owing to its value for hunting purposes.

Cocoanut water is "sabi" to women suckling children. They may, however, eat the pulp.

All hot food is "sabi" to pregnant women.

Gumada (yangona or kava) is "sabi" to boys below the age of puberty.

Green ginger is eaten by men before fighting to make them strong—a literal example of the old saying, "Ginger for pluck." It is also given to dogs to make them strong for the chase. The owner chews the root and spits the juice into the dog's mouth.

Brothers and "pana" (intimate friends) of a man will, on his death "sabi" themselves against either cocoanuts or bananas—whichever of the two he last asked for or used during life. The length of time this "sabi" lasts is governed by the seasons. Should the death occur in the south-east season the "sabi" lasts until the next north-west, and *vice versâ*. This "sabi" is imperative, but does not apply to any other articles of food than the two named.

People may privately "sabi" anything to show grief. Duani, chief of Mawatta, "sabied" dugong fishing 10 years ago, on the death of a great friend, and has never engaged in it since.

The only charm against accident appears to be in the case of snakes. A man killing a snake burns it, and smears his legs with the ashes when going into the bush. No snake will then bite him for a period of from four to six days. After that time the smearing has to be renewed.

Charm to aid Dugong and Turtle Spearing.—A small beetle (Guguwariu), which frequents cocoanut-trees, is placed inside the hole in the end of the "wap" (spear haft), into which the "kiwuro" (spear head) is inserted. This is supposed to cause the "kiwuro" to stick fast in the dugong or turtle when speared, in the same way as the "guguwariu" sticks fast to a man's skin when it bites him. The "wap" and "amu" (rope of vines) are also anointed with "gum ada" before the fishing starts. This makes them strong.

The patches of dugong food on the reefs are individually owned, and descend from father to son. No man can fish on another

man's patch without permission. Where new patches form on the reefs they are the property of the discoverers. The four dugong fishing tribes here—Parama, Gurai, Kadawah, and Ture Ture—each have separate localities in which they fish, and are not supposed to poach on each other's ground. I have reason to know that this law is well observed, although, like others, it is subject to breaches.

Dead persons' relatives place food on their graves for one month after death. Fires are made alongside the graves for four days after burial, while the funeral feasts last. In some places (Kiwai, for instance) the fires are continued every night so long as the deceased is remembered or grief lasts.

Iwaiaberi, a mythical personage, very tall, of the colour of ashes, with tusks like a pig, and white hair who steals young children. He has always to be carefully guarded against at births, as the first cry of a newborn child attracts him.

One of these myths inhabits the yam plantation at Daru station, and is said to have been seen several times by members of the constabulary, when there have been small children about the station. The people have a firm belief in it, although it was probably originally a sort of "bogie man" to frighten children into good behaviour.

"Buhere buhere" (a species of female devil) is much feared. They inhabit large trees as a rule, and are very dangerous. Trees supposed to be inhabited by them are treated with much respect, and never cut down. The large fig-tree at the back of the station is supposed to contain a colony of these dangerous females. Some little time ago I considered one of the branches dangerous, and caused it to be cut off. Only two men, Uria and Savi, would touch it. The people about told them that something would surely happen. As they have as yet come to no harm, the people say that the "buhere buhere" cannot harm the Government or its employees. They do not believe the less in the power of the "buhere buhere" to harm themselves if offended.

Another species of female devil (wauwa) inhabits certain places in the district, and has various powers and functions. That which inhabits Mabudauan Hill records the death of any member of the Kadawa or Ture Ture tribes by clapping two stones together There is also a wauwa at Daru. She had two stones with which she worked mischief until I broke them up two years ago. Since then the "wauwa," according to the natives, has gone to another part of the island. In the opinion of the natives the destruction of the stones has been beneficial to the health of the island.

Two years ago, because of the evil reputation Daru possessed—illnesses, male and female devils, &c.—the removal of the station from Mabudauan to Daru was strenuously objected to by the Mawatta people, who have never much frequented the latter place, and were very afraid to live there for any length of time, as they said they invariably contracted illness. Any epidemic of colds, &c., was always believed to come from Daru. There was only one Mawatta man in Government employ at the time. This people

went so far as to suggest that he should leave the service and not go to Daru, or he would die. He, however, was not very afraid, and took his wife and child to Daru also. He has never been ill nor has the woman or child while on Daru, but every time the latter goes to Mawatta he appears to lose his health, and is hurried back by his mother to Daru. So far from being afraid to serve on Daru now, all hands recognise the station to be the healthiest place in the district. It was always my opinion that Daru would be fairly healthy, owing to it being higher ground than any other locality in the district, and fortunately it proved so to be in spite of the superstitions of the people. Only once—in May 1894—has there been any serious illness on the station (owing to an abnormal rainfall). From April, 1893, to the following year there was no sickness, and the station acquired a name for healthiness. Had, however, much sickness occurred during the first six months or so of the settlement, and the predictions of the people been verified, we would probably have had to recruit the police from other districts or shifted the station.

Masingaramu Folk-lore, &c.—The alligator (sible) is the deity of the Masingaramu people. Alligators may be killed but not eaten by them. The story goes that many years ago, when the tribe were located at Sareewe, a man named Usai was walking near the crossing-place on Pudumatura Creek, on the boundary between Masingara and Badu. Hearing singing and talking in the creek, he went closer and saw an alligator playing with two young alligators, and singing and talking to them in the Masingaramu language. He went back to Sareewe and told of what he had seen. He said that no doubt this alligator was a god, and that it would be advisable to secure him and keep him as the god of the tribe. Next morning all the people went to the place, and on seeing the alligator, asked him to become their god, and they would take him to Sareewe and provide him with food. The alligator, however, declined the honour, and disappeared in the water. Usai then suggested that they should catch the alligator which they did, but they only succeeded in securing one of the young ones which was held under the forearm of the big one. The alligator's name was Nugu, and the young one Ulbe. They were taken to Sareewe and placed in a house.

After some time children who were left in the village while their parents were in the gardens were occasionally missing. It was then discovered that Nugu had been eating them. At a council of the villagers it was decided to supply Nugu with pigs on condition that he did not touch the children. Nugu agreed to this, and thereafter the children could be left with him in safety. Tradition is silent as to the end of Nugu and Ulbe, but, in a small house in which the young boys sleep and play at Masingara, there are two effigies of them which are rather works of art. The figure of Nugu is about 8 feet long, that of Ulbe about 4 feet. They are used at the large hunting dances, being placed in the middle of the circle of dancers and refreshed with libations of sie (the Yangona) and greased with pig's fat.

The memory of Nugu is also perpetuated in the figure of a man which is kept in the Chief's house and is the great totem of the tribe.

Relationship by marriage, termed "emapura" at Mawatta, is called "gite" at Masingara. The "tabu" is "mitse." Exactly the same law applies in the latter tribe as in the former in connection with it, except that a breach of the mitse has to be healed by the offender supplying food and sie (gumada) to the offended person for one whole day.

B. A. HELY.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 197.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895-6.

(For Report for 1894-5, *see* No. 168.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
July 1897.

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166	Bermuda	„
167	Leeward Islands	1895
168	British New Guinea	1894
169	Zululand	1894–5
170	Sierra Leone	1895
171	Gibraltar	„
172	Malta	„
173	Barbados	„
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
175	Falkland Islands	„
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179	Windward Islands	„
180	Labuan	„
181	Trinidad and Tobago	„
182	Seychelles	„
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185	Lagos	1895
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189	Gold Coast	„
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195	Gambia	„
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ANNUAL REPORT on BRITISH NEW GUINEA from 1st July 1895 to 30th June 1896.

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No. 197.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

(For Report for 1894-5, *see* No. 168.)

Lieut.-Governor Sir W. McGREGOR to LORD LAMINGTON.

British New Guinea,
January 18, 1897.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit the usual Annual Report for the year ending with the 30th June 1896, as follows:—

LEGISLATION.

Only Ordinances of a formal character were passed during the year.

1. Ordinance No. I. of 1895 is the Appropriation Ordinance for 1895–96. This measure was passed to appropriate for the services of the financial year the following sums:—For ordinary administrative purposes, the sum of 15,000*l.*; for establishing and maintaining additional Government agencies during the year, the sum of 437*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*; and for the maintenance of the steamship "Merrie England" for the year ending 31st March, the sum of 7,000*l.*

2. Ordinance No. I. of 1896, being "The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance of 1896, No. 1."

Ordinance No. II. of 1896, being "The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance of 1896, No. 2."

Ordinance No. III. of 1896, being "The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance of 1896, No. 3."

These three Ordinances are alike in character, and simply adjust past expenditure.

Native Regulations.

3. Three regulations were passed by the Native Regulation Board during the year.

Regulation No. II. of 1895 was enacted for the purpose of preventing water-channels from being choked up with felled timber or other obstructive matter. It is made penal to cut down any standing timber that is within twenty yards of the line of high-water mark, or that is within a like distance of any permanent water, or to put anything in a water-channel that may obstruct the flow of water. Magistrates have power to order any native that has placed any obstructive matter in a water-channel to remove it. The powers given to magistrates are limited to

European magistrates. Obstruction to water-channels was extremely frequent, caused by the making of gardens on the banks of rivers.

4. Regulation No. III. of 1895 is intended to keep roads or general paths open. A European magistrate may, to facilitate cultivation, for example, permit a native to block a portion of a road, if the latter makes a new piece of road that can be used instead of the blocked portion. Persons that place obstructions in roads may be ordered to remove them. Blocking roads without permission is penal.

Natives are constantly clearing fresh land for gardens. A road or path very frequently runs through land thus cleared. Probably most natives would admit that when they block a general path they ought, in accordance with native custom, to open a new way through the forest. But they very often neglect to do so when they can.

5. Regulation No. IV. of 1895. The immediate need for passing this regulation was the preservation of plants from which indiarubber is obtained. Getting indiarubber is quite a new native industry. There was great danger that this trade would rapidly in certain districts become extinct or crippled if the tapping of the trees and plants was not regulated, and the felling of rubber-giving trees prohibited by law. The regulation applies to any plant or tree from which indiarubber or gutta-percha can be got, and which has been brought under the regulation by an order of the Administrator.

It is penal to destroy a protected tree or plant, or to take sap from the same in a way which has been forbidden by a magistrate; or to take sap from a protected tree or plant during a period within which it has been forbidden by a magistrate to take sap from such a tree or plant. The administering of this regulation is confined to European magistrates. This regulation has, where in force, already had a good effect, and is appreciated by natives themselves when once they understand its object.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

6. The only addition to the establishment for the administration of justice made during the year was the appointment of an agent for the north-east coast, who is also a warden and a magistrate for native matters.

His Honour F. P. Winter, C.M.G., Chief Judicial Officer, furnishes the following list of cases dealt with by the Courts during the year:—

MATTERS DEALT WITH JUDICIALLY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1896.

CENTRAL COURT.

Criminal Jurisdiction.

Appeals.

Court appealed from.	Conviction appealed against.	Result of Appeal.
Court of Petty Sessions, Central District.	Assaulting Constable - -	Sentence reduced.
	" " - - -	" "
	" " - - -	" "
	Assault - - - - -	" "
	" - - - - -	" "

Criminal Business (Ordinary).

Number of Persons committed for Trial.	District from which committed.	Persons committed—how disposed of.
23	Central District - -	10 tried.
		4 committals quashed.
		1 discharged.
		8 awaiting trial.
61	Eastern District - -	43 tried.
		6 committals quashed.
		8 discharged.
		4 awaiting trial.
13	Western District -	12 tried.
Total - - 97		1 awaiting trial.

The Court held 15 Criminal Sessions at the places and times and with the results, undermentioned :—

No. of Persons tried.	Offence charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		SAMARAI—17th July 1895.	
3	2 murder, 1 larceny -	2 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of larceny.	3 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		SAMARAI—16th September 1895.	
5	2 murder, 3 attempt to murder.	1 guilty of murder, 1 guilty of manslaughter, 3 guilty of attempt to murder.	1 death, 1 two years' imprisonment with hard labour, 3 one years' imprisonment with hard labour.
		BOIANAI—7th October 1895.	
2	2 murder - - - -	2 guilty of murder - -	2 death.

No. of Persons tried.	Offence charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	NIVANI—2nd November, 1895.		
8	3 murder, 4 selling a corpse, 1 rape.	1 guilty of murder, 2 guilty of manslaughter, 4 guilty of selling a corpse, 1 not guilty.	1 death, 6 two months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	SAMARAI—15th November 1895.		
1	1 murder - - - -	guilty of manslaughter -	12 months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	PORT MORESBY—22nd to 25th November 1895.		
2	2 murder - - - -	1 guilty of murder, 1 guilty of manslaughter.	1 death, 1 three years' penal servitude.
	PORT MORESBY—3rd to 7th December 1895.		
11	6 murder, 5 attempt to murder.	2 guilty of murder, 1 guilty of manslaughter, 3 not guilty, 5 guilty of attempt to murder.	2 death, 1 three years' penal servitude, 5 two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
	DARU—16th and 17th December 1895.		
12	3 assault, 1 abusing girl under ten, 3 unlawfully wounding, 5 indecent assault on female.	2 guilty of assault, 1 not guilty, 1 guilty of abusing girl under ten, 3 guilty of unlawfully wounding, 5 guilty of indecent assault on female.	1 three years' penal servitude, 1 two years', 4 eighteen months', 1 twelve months', 1 nine months' 2 six months', and 1 three months', imprisonment, with hard labour.
	SUDEST ISLAND—22nd May 1896.		
1	Wounding - - -	guilty - - - - -	one years' imprisonment with hard labour.
	SAMARAI—8th June 1896.		
4	1 murder, 1 wounding, 1 assaulting constable, 1 attempted suicide.	1 guilty murder, 1 guilty wounding, 1 guilty assaulting constable, 1 guilty of attempted suicide.	1 death, 2 one years' imprisonment with hard labour, 1 imprisonment until rising of Court.
	RABI, MILNE BAY—11th and 12th June 1896.		
6	2 murder, 2 attempt to murder, 2 rape	4 not guilty, 2 discharged.	
	SAMARAI—15th, 16th, and 17th June 1896.		
6	5 wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, 1 abusing girl under twelve.	1 guilty of wounding, &c., 1 guilty abusing girl under twelve, 1 not guilty, 3 discharged.	1 two years' imprisonment with hard labour, 1 one months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	AWAIAMA—22nd June 1896.		
1	1 assault - - - -	1 guilty. - - - -	1 one years' imprisonment with hard labour.
	TAUPOTA—23rd and 24th June 1896.		
6	4 murder, 1 wounding, 1 assault.	1 guilty murder, 1 guilty wounding, 1 guilty manslaughter, 1 guilty assault, 2 not guilty.	1 death, 3 one years' imprisonment with hard labour.
	SAMARAI—27th June 1896.		
2	2 assisting prisoner to escape.	2 guilty - - - -	fined 2*l.* each.
Total 70			

Civil Business.

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings, &c.
7	Applications for order to administer by Curator of Intestate Estates.
2	Applications for order under section 34 of Intestacy Act by Curator.
1	Application for probate.
Total 10	

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Indictable Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Inquiry.
Central District - -	24	18 murder - -	23 committed.
		5 attempt to murder -	
		1 arson - - -	1 discharged.
Eastern District - -	82	27 murder - -	61 committed.
		5 attempt to murder	21 discharged.
		19 rape - -	
		4 selling a corpse -	
		9 wounding - -	
		4 assault - - -	
		1 attempted suicide -	
		2 abusing young girl	
		2 assisting prisoner to escape.	
		2 escaping from gaol	
		5 seditious language -	
		2 indecent assault -	
Western District - -	14	1 murder - -	13 committed.
		3 wounding - -	1 dismissed.
		1 abusing young girl	
		6 indecent assault -	
		3 assault - -	
	Total 120		

Summary Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central District	40	12 assault	8 convicted, 4 discharged.
		3 refusing duty on ship	3 convicted.
		5 breach of Prisons Ordinance	5 convicted.
		1 injuries to property	1 convicted.
		3 breach of Constabulary Ordinance.	3 convicted.
		3 breach of Labour Ordinance	3 convicted.
		1 careless use of fire	1 convicted.
		1 indecent exposure	1 convicted.
		10 larceny	4 convicted, 6 discharged.
		1 breach of Arms, &c. Ordinance.	1 discharged.
Eastern District	96	14 breach of Prisons Ordinance	6 convicted, 8 discharged.
		32 larceny	25 convicted, 7 discharged.
		30 assault	24 convicted, 6 discharged.
		2 injuries to property	1 convicted, 1 discharged.
		1 breach of Customs Act	1 discharged.
		3 breach of Navigation Act	3 discharged.
		2 breach of Constabulary Ordinance.	2 convicted.
		3 drunk and disorderly	1 convicted, 2 discharged.
		1 breach of Pearl Shell Ordinance.	1 convicted.
		1 threatening language	1 convicted.
		7 breach of Labour Ordinance	7 convicted.
Western District	5	1 breach of Labour Ordinance	—
		4 assault	—
	Total 141		

Civil Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Action.	Result of Action.
Central District	2	1 work and labour performed.	Settled out of court.
		1 goods sold	Settled out of court.
Eastern District	11	8 goods sold	7 verdict for plaintiff, 1 verdict for defendant.
		1 rent	Verdict for defendant.
		1 work and labour performed.	Verdict for defendant.
		1 hire of vessel	Verdict for plaintiff.
Wesrten District	2	2 wages	Verdict for plaintiff.
	Total 15		

NATIVE MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

Criminal Jurisdiction (Forbidden Acts).

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central) -	118	9 assault - - -	8 convicted, 1 discharged.
		62 larceny - - -	56 convicted, 6 discharged.
		18 destroying valuable trees -	18 convicted.
		5 extortion - - -	5 convicted.
		5 disobeying magistrate's order.	5 convicted.
		6 spreading lying reports -	6 convicted.
		1 escaping from custody -	1 convicted.
		1 breach of roads regulation-	1 convicted.
		6 abduction - - -	6 convicted.
		1 adultery - - -	1 convicted.
		4 threatening language -	3 convicted, 1 discharged.
No. 3 (Eastern) -	53	3 spreading lying reports -	3 convicted.
		20 adultery - - -	11 convicted, 9 discharged.
		9 sorcery - - -	7 convicted, 2 discharged.
		6 assault - - -	6 convicted.
		1 threatening language -	1 convicted.
		11 larceny - - -	10 convicted, 1 discharged.
		1 extortion - - -	1 convicted.
		1 destroying valuable trees -	1 convicted.
		1 breach of roads regulation-	1 convicted.
No. 1 (Western) -	13	10 adultery - - -	9 convicted, 1 discharged.
		2 larceny - - -	2 convicted.
		1 assault - - -	1 convicted.
Total -	184		

Civil Jurisdiction (Civil Claims).

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Claim.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central) -	Nil.		
No. 3 (Eastern) -	1	1 ownership of string of shell money.	String equally divided between the parties.
No. 1 (Western) -	Nil.		

TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court - - - - - - -	97
In Courts of Petty Sessions (exclusive of the 97 cases that went up to Central Court) - - - - -	164
In Native Magistrates' Courts - - - - - -	184
In all Courts - - - - - -	445

TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court - - - - - - -	10
In Courts of Petty Sessions - - - - - -	15
In Native Magistrates' Courts - - - - -	1
In all Courts - - - - - -	26

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1895-6.

Of the 445 cases that were before the Courts in their criminal jurisdiction, nine resulted in a sentence of capital punishment. In each of these cases the circumstances attending the offence were such as more or less justified in the eyes of the natives the act which constituted the crime. The sentences were all commuted to long sentences of penal servitude. The following is a brief outline of these cases:—

A canoe with a number of natives from Budiai, in Normanby Island, went to Sewa Bay, in the same island. Some time previously certain of the Budiai people had killed two of the natives of a village in Sewa Bay. The relatives of the deceased thought this was a good chance to avenge their dead kinsman. Many of the Sewa Bay people considered that the matter as intertribal feud should be deemed at an end. But the relatives in question disagreed with this view, and, followed by a party of their friends, some of whom appear to have gone simply out of curiosity, they went to where the Budiai canoe was. Two of them succeeded in killing one of the Budiai men. One of the two was soon arrested, tried, and convicted of murder. The other was tried at a later date.

Two men of Boianai, in Goodenough Bay, killed two lads belonging to a hill village called Kwamana. The Kwamana people had for long been at feud with their greatly more powerful coast neighbours. The two culprits had both lost relatives, killed by the Kwamana men. The slaying of the lads was simply an act of retaliation.

Two natives of Gulewa, a village of Misima (St. Aignan) Island, had in 1892 killed a native of another village on the same island called Ariba. Some little time previous to this murder the Ariba people had killed the brother of one of the offenders. Of the latter, one was arrested and tried in 1894, the other was not captured until 1895.

Some natives of Makibiri, in the Astrolabe Range, attacked some natives of Veiburi, a village beneath the range and near the coast, and killed one of the latter. This happened in 1889 or 1890. The culprit was one of the party that made the attack. The homicide was a retaliatory one, the Veiburi people having killed some Makibiri people at some anterior period.

A band of natives of the village of Yarumi, on the eastern slopes of the Astrolabe Range, in 1891 attacked four natives of Veiburi who were camped in "the bush," and killed two of them. Their reason for making this attack appears to have been that they had lately lost one of their own people from natural causes, and they regarded it as their duty to kill some one of their neighbours who had probably procured death by incantation.

Towards the end of the year the second native of Sewa Bay Normanby Island, implicated in the killing of a Budiai man, already referred to, was arrested and tried.

A few years ago a native of a small village near Cape Frere had, by his own pretensions or by common repute, acquired the

reputation of being a great sorcerer. This being so, deaths from sickness that happened in his neighbourhood were put down to his incantations. The people became very frightened of him. Finally the brother of a man who probably was above his neighbours in resolution died, and the death was attributed to the sorcerer. Urged on by others, the brother killed the supposed evil-doer.

The fifteen sittings of the Central Court in its criminal jurisdiction were held as follows:—

In the Western District - - -	1
In the Central District - - -	2
In the Eastern District - - -	10
In the South-eastern District- - -	2

Five cases—three for assaulting constables and one for common assault—were brought before the Central Court on appeal. The sentences were in each instance reduced.

There were thirteen cases awaiting trial before the Central Court at the end of the year.

Of the 120 persons charged before the Courts of Petty Sessions with indictable offences forty-six were for murder. The nineteen cases of rape, all of which appertain to the Eastern District Court might lead to a wrong impression being formed of the natives in that district. A charge of rape was brought against a company of men who were alleged to have abused some women of another village, but the evidence was not sufficient for even a committal. Two cases of rape reached the Central Court, but both cases completely broke down. The corpse for selling which four men got a mild sentence was negotiated for the sake of the skull, which was wanted as a trophy by the people of an out-of-the-way village. Cases of wounding are as a rule the result of loss of temper. Of the three cases of abusing young girls, only the Western case was a charge brought against a native.

In the cases tried by the Courts of Petty Sessions in their summary jurisdiction assaults and larcenies predominate.

In the Native Magistrates' Courts it will be seen that in one district one class of offences is more frequently on the calendar than it is in other districts. In the Central District larcenies represent more than half the cases, whilst adultery only figures once. In the Eastern and Western Districts adultery heads the list. Sorcery is confined to the Eastern District this year, so far as proceedings before the Courts are concerned.

The total number of cases brought before the Courts has been—

1895–96.	1894–95.	1893–94.	1892–93.	1891–92.	1890–91.	1889–90.
471	362	317	138	142	81	71

Although there is a large increase on the previous year, this is mostly due to cases in the Native Magistrates' Courts, and these are largely cases in the Central District. The total number

of the cases in these Courts last year was eighty, and of these thirty-two belonged to the Central District. This year the cases amount to 184, and 118 are Central District cases. During last year the two Government Agents of the Central District were absent on leave for half the year. The majority of these cases are dealt with by the Government Agents, who are generally travelling through their districts. The civil jurisdiction of the native magistrates was only once formally appealed to in the year. Judging by the order of the Court, the evidence must have been evenly balanced or very conflicting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS.

7. The Resident Magistrate for the Western Division notes a steady improvement in the behaviour and general condition of the native population, with less crime and more general punishment of criminals, which he attributes to greater willingness on the part of the people to report cases, and to the activity of the village police. Crimes having their origin in sexual relations predominate. Sorcery continues and will continue to cause trouble, as all the ills by which the western man is visited can be ascribed to it. The year was a dry one in the west, and food was accordingly scarce, but the public health was good.

As was to a large extent the case in the previous year, the very infirm health of the Resident Magistrate made it quite impossible for him during the greater part of the year to visit the different tribes, with the exception of a few of the old settled communities on the coast and near to the station; but he was able to do good work in this direction during the last three months of the year. He then travelled inland from the coast in several directions in the country that lies between the western mouth of the Fly and the Mai Kussa, visiting several new tribes and finding the people friendly and the country thinly peopled, but of greater value than was expected. There still remains much to do, however, to complete our knowledge of the great flat land that lies between the sea and the last 200 miles of the Fly, a task which has hitherto proceeded but slowly.

There is no real settlement by Europeans in the Western Division and there is no advance in trade to be noted there. The Resident Magistrate feels, what indeed it is impossible not to feel, that the Western Division is placed at a most serious industrial disadvantage by its natural fishing-grounds being practically all held by Queensland.

The western station is in good order, and the Magistrate is making praiseworthy and successful efforts in growing food for the establishment and in thus keeping down expense. The principle of self-help he has with good result extended also to the erection and maintenance of buildings. There has always been good reason to be satisfied with the discipline kept up at this

station. A great extension of the Government authority may be expected from this important centre if the health of the Resident Magistrate continues good for the next two or three years.

The most important work of a permanent character initiated during the year is the building of a stone jetty. It is not easy to obtain stone, and what is got is generally of poor quality; but a jetty is so much wanted and would be of such great use across the mud-covered foreshore, that it is very necessary to proceed with this undertaking, the difficulties in the way notwithstanding.

8. In the Eastern Division the Resident Magistrate attributes the increased number of offences by natives brought before the Court to the extension of the village police system and to the increased readiness of natives to complain to the magistrate. He notes also that natives are shifting down from high lands, to which they had formerly been driven, towards the coast. He concludes that infanticide is practised by the natives at Tubetutu in his district, and that they also procure abortion. Infanticide, probably by neglect, is not improbable there. It has not so far been established that any method of procuring abortion is known to, or is practised by, the natives of this colony, although they, like probably all aboriginal races in the Western Pacific, use harmless herbs to prevent conception. The year was a dry one in the Eastern Division, but unfortunately the meteorological records have been discontinued.

The opening of village cemeteries is proceeding satisfactorily. A considerable amount of labour was expended in road-making, especially along the north shore of Milne Bay, under the initiation of the chief of Mita. The Magistrate notes the extension of gold-mining and the introduction of the rubber industry in the division. On the whole there was a considerable enlargement of trade there. The gaol and the Custom House and bonded warehouse are not in good condition, but otherwise the station is in a satisfactory state. The health of the residents on Samarai has been much improved by the filling in of the dozen acres of mangrove swamp that formerly occupied the centre of that island.

9. The report of the Commandant shows that the constabulary were kept very busy during the year. Divisions of six to eleven men are stationed permanently with each of the Magistrates and Government Agents, except at Samarai, where the men employed are not members of the constabulary. There are, in addition to this, generally from fifteen to twenty men at disposal as a moveable force, which can be employed to strengthen the district divisions or to perform other special service as required. The force, now about four score strong, consists exclusively of natives of this country, and may be regarded as being in a satisfactory condition. At present all enlistment is voluntary, and there is a steady increase in the number of men that seem disposed to make the constabulary their permanent profession. This gives to the body a steadiness and continuity of great value. The movable force

visited each occupied district of the colony during the year, and performed a large amount of very useful work.

One of the most interesting incidents mentioned in the report of the Commandant is where some 250 spearmen assembled at night to attack them on Sewa Harbour. The fact that the natives retired without doing so shows well the utility of always keeping on one's guard. Those tribes will never trust each other again, and will not in future unite to attack the constabulary.

As to the loyalty of the men there can be no doubt. They are recruited from widely different districts—from the Mambare River, Dobu, and Rossel Island in the east to Mawatta in the west. The force is remarkably healthy, and is steadily gaining in prestige, in self-confidence, and in efficiency.

10. The report of the Government Agent for the north-east coast covers the last three quarters of the year, the station having been first established in the beginning of October, 1895. He describes the steps taken to found the station, for which no good site could then be obtained, all the land near the locality where it was thought the station would be most useful being low and subject to occasional flooding. Mr. Green was very successful and industrious in providing suitable temporary accommodation at small expense. Progress in opening up personal communication with the natives he describes as having been slow, as the latter were naturally suspicious and had been hostile; and because the men found the Mambare district very different from any they were acquainted with. The agent also visited the coast tribes as far south as Cape Nelson, meeting with no unfriendly demonstration, but finding what others have experienced on this coast—that the pilfering propensity of the native is highly developed. Mr. Green is inclined to think that certain tribes that attacked the lower villages on the Mambare came from German territory. This is quite possible, but on the whole the probability is that they came from the Ikore River, which is probably all in British territory except a few miles near the mouth. But this cannot be determined until time is found to cut a path on this side of the boundary till it strikes the Ikore, when careful astronomical observations will have to be made to arrive at an approximate boundary, the tribes clearly inside of which will then be duly taken in hand.

The agent assisted the few miners that visited the district with whatever assistance was in his power. These numbered eight during the first four months of Mr. Green's occupancy, and the same number were in the district the last three months of the year with a large number of native carriers from the lower coast tribes, who frequently deserted and were thievish.

From October to May the Mambare was liable to frequent and sudden floods, which caused much trouble at the station. The Government Agent regrets the complete absence of missionary work in his district, and points out that progress is being made in establishing English as the language of the station.

11. The Government Agent for the Mekeo district notes the gradual settlement of the tribes to quiet habits. Some new tribes visited near the Korio (Yule Range) were of the Mekeo type, and friendly; their country very mountainous and not rich. A few new tribes were also visited in the Gulf, and friendly relations were established with them. About a dozen traders are engaged in the district making copra, and collecting sandalwood, rubber, and gum. There is no serious planting for commercial purposes. Good progress was made in opening and improving roads in the Mekeo district. Serious crime is greatly diminished, but petty offences are much more frequently brought before the magistrate. Chief and village constables require to be carefully watched to prevent extortion by them. Larceny is the most common petty offence.

The defective school attendance is noted, as is also the neglect of the English language in the schools of the district.

12. The Government Agent of the Rigo district points out that there are still many tribes near the main range not yet brought into contact with Europeans, but living in their original condition. Amongst these superstition is the root of most crimes that are committed. The Kokila and Taboru tribes, and the Rupi, Galirupu, and Kamiti tribes have become settled under Government authority. The coast tribes are manifesting a strong desire for European clothes, tools, &c. The first cocoanuts planted under the native regulation are now beginning to bear. The rubber industry was keenly prosecuted during the year.

Several small blocks of land taken up for planting purposes are now being cultivated.

Four new tribes and twenty-three new villages were visited during the year.

Murder has entirely ceased in the district, and petty offences are more generally punished than formerly.

Sixty-two prisoners were received in the district gaol, sentenced to short terms of imprisonment under the native regulations.

13. The Resident Magistrate of the Central Division points out that trading voyages for sago were, in consequence of scarcity of food, undertaken by most of the coast villages, and with successful results. He mentions that in regulating burials during a visit to the gulf, he and Mr. Kowald caused the natives to exhume over 200 bodies. The magistrate refers to a considerable amount of work performed in the division, much of which was of a progressive and ordinary character.

14. The head gaoler's report seems to have been miscarried by post, and is not given here. The prisoners did a considerable amount of work during the year, filling in foreshore, clearing, and planting cocoanuts. For the first time there was an outbreak of the disease beri-turi in the gaol at Port Moresby, which caused no fewer than 9 deaths. The malady was introduced by some prisoners from Cloudy Bay. Towards the end of the year some 50 prisoners were lent to the gold-mining company starting

crushing operations on Sudest Island. They have been principally employed in making a road from the coast to the mine. They are employed on the basis that the company pays all expenses, including those of supervision, and a small rate a day for each prisoner at work.

VISITS OF INSPECTION.

15. The first administrative inspection made during the year was in the district of Rigo, early in July. Certain points were fixed by astronomical observation to facilitate the filling up of the map of the district. Some 5,000 to 6,000 cocoanut trees were growing well at the station, and the condition of both constabulary and prisoners was satisfactory. The station and district had suffered much from the absence on leave of Mr. English, the Government Agent, but matters were again assuming their normal aspect. It was found that Mr. English was very successful in training and educating the village police, although the latter still make frequent mistakes. Peaceful and regular habits were seen to be firmly established over a large area, and some good main roads had been cleared. On the other hand, the planting of cocoanuts had not been well persevered in, and those planted had been generally neglected. In short, the Government Agent and the natives generally were not giving so much attention to the regulation for planting and weeding cocoanuts as that important subject deserves. The ordinary excuse was that the natives could not obtain nuts to plant, but that was no reason why they should neglect those they had already planted out. The station will soon be able to pay for native labour in cocoanuts grown there, which will be a great advantage to all concerned, to say nothing of the encouragement to be derived from the very successful example of their cultivation at the Government Station.

The rubber industry was being started in the district.

On a visit to Wabumari, in the Eastern Division, in July, a returned good-conduct prisoner was installed as village policeman. He has done good service since. A native accused of murder, and arrested at Geagea, Port Glasgow, by the village policeman of Magula, was brought on board the steamer at the same time for transmission to Samarai.

16. In the beginning of August all was found quiet and progressive at Dobu. On the Sunday there was an attentive congregation of about 350 people in the principal church. The planting of food was being industriously attended to by the people of Dobu, but, apparently, principally on the large island of Duau. The greater portion of the adults were there spending the working days of the week in their gardens at Duau, but they all came to Dobu (some of them a distance of several miles) on Saturday evening to attend church on Sunday. On Sunday evening, or Monday morning, they returned to their work in the gardens. That the mission is able to induce the natives to do this, is a convincing proof of the singular success that has attended their

labours in this Colony. The head of the Wesleyan Mission, the Reverend W. Bromilow, practises himself the laborious round of duties he insists on exacting from his teachers; after conducting service in the principal church he visited others, and preached in the course of the day to about 1,500 natives.

A number of village cemeteries were laid off on Dobu and Fergusson Islands.

As the native tribes that live on the southern slopes of Mount Kilkerran were said to be still hostile both to the Government and to the peaceful tribes between the mountain and the sea, a visit in force was made to them. They were taken by surprise, as they had thought we could not ascend to their villages. Though at first defiant, they soon submitted and surrendered the murderer through whom all the trouble had arisen. A large area of good land was found to exist between Mount Kilkerran and Dawson Straits, sufficient, if utilised, to relieve the congested district of Fergusson, facing Dobu.

In the end of July the centre of the island of Fergusson was examined by a journey across it from Hughes Bay to Seymour Bay. At several villages the people were timid, and at certain places they could not be induced for some time to return to their houses, but none were in any way unfriendly. At only one place were any armed men met with, and that was near the centre of the island, where they had noticed the approach of our party without knowing who we were. Skull trophies had disappeared in the villages near the coast, but they still remained exposed in certain others towards the centre of the island. Contrary to what had been expected, no swamp land was traversed in the interior. It is not thickly inhabited, though villages are dotted over the whole island up to an altitude of 2,000 feet on the large mountains. The different tribes seem to be industrious, making very large food gardens, but building rather inferior houses.

What seemed to be most wanted in the district of Duau, Dobu, and Fergusson was the introduction of some industry on which the natives could be profitably employed on a larger scale than is the case at present. Some village policemen were appointed on the south-east end of Duau. There the tribes near the coast are peaceful and industrious, but it was reported that several crimes had been committed in the mountains and had not, so far, been dealt with by the magistrate.

17. In the earlier part of August, the Commandant, with a number of men of the constabulary, was sent to visit the villages on Murawawa, a bight in Goodenough Bay. This was rendered urgent by a report kindly furnished by the Reverend Copland King, head of the Anglican Mission in this Colony. From ages immemorial those tribes had been accustomed to murder their neighbours from time to time, and they remained true to their old habits in spite of repeated and prolonged visits from the magistrate and constabulary, and, uninfluenced by the proximity, and latterly by the presence among themselves, of the mission workers,

they had lately committed two apparently unprovoked murders. The Commandant found that the houses were empty when he arrived in the bay. He succeeded in inducing many of the owners to return home, a work in which he was assisted by the two resident teachers, but the murderers had fled to certain distant hill tribes for refuge.

The first step taken on the arrival of the main party was to pay a visit to the hill tribe of Kwamana, members of which had been the last victims of the Murawawa tribes. The Kwamana, not knowing the errand or quality of their visitors, prepared themselves skilfully to repel an attack; but they soon understood the wishes of the Government and manifested their desire for peace and protection.

The Commandant was sent to effect the settlement of the mountain tribe Budi, reconciling them with the Dogura tribe of Murawawa. Then the tribes west of the Murawawa were reassured and settled; but the Resident Magistrate failed to induce the chief of Paiwa to come to Kaiboda. The actual murderers belonged to the villages of Kaiboda and Boianai. Without any previous hint having been given, all the arms in their houses were suddenly collected and burned in the village squares.

As it was found that the rich gardens of these two tribes depended wholly on an elaborate system of irrigation, it was threatened that the water would be cut off, that the food would be eaten up, and their cocoanuts would be used up if they did not surrender the two murderers. A party of the inhabitants, accompanied by two or three constables, set out for the inland villages, where the murderers were hiding, and eventually they were handed over, tried, and convicted before the Central Court.

A charge made against some of the constabulary of having criminally assaulted some women of Boianai was promptly inquired into by the magistrate, and found to be groundless.

A call was made at the well-settled village of Awaiama, in Chad's Bay. It was with this tribe that the Government first came into collision, since which they have remained loyal, the chief being a village policeman. They had a coloured teacher of the Anglican Mission among them, but he was working under serious disadvantages and without very promising results. Matters were found to be quite satisfactory at Taupota. There was a mission teacher there under circumstances very similar to those of his colleague at Awaiama. On our stopping at Paiwa, the rural constable there reported the murder of four men of his tribe by a mountain sept. This latter was visited by the Commandant with a large force; the natives attacked them and were beaten off, while some of those accused of murder were arrested.

18. On proceeding to an inspection of the lower part of the Mambare river on the 19th August it was learned that Mr. George

Clark, leader of a gold-prospecting party on the Mambare, had been killed in a treacherous and unprovoked attack made by the natives. The party reached the river on the 1st July, and in eight or nine days passed the highest villages on the low-lying reaches of the river. The natives were helping them up the river, and had seen considerable trade stores of the travellers; and the fact that the women and children had been sent away, while spears and clubs had become much more numerous, was at the time hardly noticed by the Europeans. Taking advantage of a favourable opportunity, the natives cut the towing-rope of the boat in which was Mr. Clark alone, with nearly all the rifles of the party. They threw a shower of spears on him, and he disappeared, apparently mortally wounded, in a deep pool. The natives secured most of the trade and made off. The party when returning down the river met a second lot of prospectors; they joined forces, ascended the river, and illegally set about inflicting punishment after their own fashion by breaking canoes, shooting pigs, and burning houses. There can hardly be any doubt that in descending the river after the first attack they would have to defend themselves from hostile natives, but the action of the miners became ultimately aggressive. Mr. Clark bore an excellent character. If he erred at all in dealing with natives it seems to have been on the side of over-indulgence towards them. The chief of the first village, Taututu, was friendly and visited us on the morning of the 20th, but his village and that next beyond it were practically deserted. The next two or three villages, judging from the friendly demeanour of the people, had not been directly concerned in the murder of Mr. Clark. At the village of Apochi, where there was a large number of natives preparing a feast, there was in the village square a shovel that had belonged to the miners. On seeing that it was noticed, the natives all fled to the bush. A rupture was avoided with the tribes of the upper district till better information should be obtained. They came to the station to trade, but were suspicious. While descending the river one could observe that in all the upper villages new arms were being got ready, and preparations were going on for an expected struggle. At the village of Eruatutu two men were fired upon when in the act of trying to throw their spears on the party.

On the 23rd September the river was again ascended, this time with a strong force, about a score of men of the constabulary headed by the commandant and the magistrate. No proceedings hostile to the natives were undertaken before the party reached the junction of the Tamata with the Mamba, where a permanent camp was formed. A small party continued to travel towards the interior for six days after leaving the camp, and cut a path for about thirty miles along the right bank of the river, on the Ajula Kujula mountain. All was deep forest, uninhabited, with some prospect of gold. The party left at the camp encouraged visits from natives until the latter began to think themselves

masters of the situation, and assumed a threatening and defiant demeanour. At a suitable moment the constabulary rushed on them and arrested the number they had been instructed to secure—six strong young men. The six prisoners were brought to Samarai. A number of prospectors followed the party up the river. Mr. Green was left at the camp at the Tamata junction, as Government Agent, with suitable equipment and ten men of the constabulary.

A hurried visit was made to the Mambare on the 22nd October to learn the state of matters there. It appeared that all was satisfactory. At the same time a tribe was visited on the Dubila Creek. They had made some threatening demonstrations towards certain miners and to people belonging to the "Merrie England." They preserved a friendly attitude when found at home.

19. At the end of August an inspection of the River Musa was entered upon, over 30 miles of which had previously been examined. The few people living in the first two small villages, some score of miles from the sea, fled on our approach, but communications were opened with all other tribes during the ascent, and with the lower villages on the return journey. The Baruga tribe was timid but friendly; they were poor and not well prepared for defence; they had no tree-houses. In heavy floods all their land, and all between that and the sea, would be flooded. At the considerable village of Gewaduru, shallows commence which the launch could not pass without some flood in the river. Here the people were from the first friendly. They had a dozen excellent tree-houses, the best arranged and the best for defence hitherto noticed in the Colony. They had evidently heard of Europeans from the natives of Collingwood Bay. Beyond Gewaduru progress was generally effected by dragging the boat by the tow-rope. The village of Gudari was reached on the 29th. There also the people were friendly. They had three tree-houses and a palisade round the village. Thin stone adzes and some of their clubs were of jade. Up to this point the river bed lay entirely in flat alluvial country, much of which would be flooded occasionally. The same day the boat entered the first low hills of the Didina Range. Half-a-dozen miners who accompanied us in the steamer's dinghy did not go further than these hills. When the boat could be taken no higher up the river on account of rapids, a camp was formed, nearly four score miles from the sea, and the river was followed up on foot for six days. It was extremely difficult to travel by the river bed on account of the numerous impassable cliffs projecting into it. On the east side of the river the hills, generally forest-clad, rise to about 3,000 feet. On the west they are lower and more grassy. It was found that there were natives waiting for the party on its arrival across the hills. On emerging from these one finds oneself in front of the confluence of the Moni and the Adaua, the former from the west, the latter from the east and south-east; united they form the Musa. The country lying south of the junction forms a great plain 12 or 20 miles broad, and of greater but uncertain length,

especially towards the west. It is very lightly wooded, and is slightly undulating. Many villages could be seen on it. Our camp was visited by natives from several parts of the great valley, all of whom were very friendly and unarmed. They are of a dark-brown colour, are fairly robust, and apparently are numerous. They did not know tobacco. The return journey from the junction of the Adaua and Moni to the boat camp occupied less than a day and a-half. The miners did not find any gold in the Didina Range. Gudari and Gewaduru were friendly as we decended the Musa, and so were all the other tribes, including the lowest villages of all. On the 18th September we were camped on the river bank not far from the foot of Mount Victory. At grey dawn next morning a force of about 300 men, in twenty-eight large war canoes, all painted and feathered as if for war, went up the river past us. The steamer was met the same day at the mouth of the Musa, and early next morning a strong party, comprising a score of the constabulary, started at an early hour after the invaders, and came up with them early in the afternoon.

The canoes were all passed in the river by the steam launch, and were driven down the stream. They were all captured without a single exception; every canoe they had brought up the river, and a number of smaller working canoes which they must have taken from the natives on the Mambare. They had already caught at least some ten or twelve unfortunate natives, the bodies of many being cut up, divided out, and partly cooked, probably a good deal eaten. In a conflict between a party of the cannibals and a few men of the constabulary, two or three natives were shot dead and some were wounded. One of the latter was taken on board the steamer, and was subsequently conducted back to his tribe, the Mapuya, on Mount Trafalgar. It was clear that the greater part of the men, if not indeed all of them, that took part part in that expedition were from the Trafalgar Bay and Collingwood Bay tribes.

20. About the middle of October the Kumusi river was inspected to the highest point accessible by the small steam launch. There was some difficulty then in crossing the bar at the mouth of this river. There was no native occupation of any kind on the Kumusi within two dozen miles of the sea. At this distance about a score of natives were making sago. They were friendly. A mile or two further on there was a larger party, containing about three score fighting men, besides many women and children They were friendly, but timid and nervous. They seemed to be emigrants, and about to settle down there, as they had all their household goods with them on canoes. Those that appeared armed were made to put their weapons aside. Above that point many natives were met with; generally they appeared armed, the warrior being frequently followed by a woman carrying part of his panoply, or ready to relieve him of his arms when he was induced to dispense with them. The natives of the villages on the right bank, on the flat alluvial plateau nearest to the hills, did not seem to be on very good terms with those on the left bank.

A large tribe lives near the foot of the first hills on the left bank, and many of those people came to our camp there. They were friendly, but they are quite untrustworthy. All were taught to not approach the boat or camp with weapons in their hands. If they do so with future parties this will be an indication that mischief is contemplated.

The small launch ascended about 50 miles by the river course from the sea to the foot of high hills. No villages were visible thence; but a "bush" tribe visited the camp from the right bank, and did some friendly trading. A number of natives also appeared on the left bank, and brought us food for sale. The banks and shingle in the river had all the appearance of auriferous deposits, but it was difficult to find the smallest "colour" of gold.

All the natives seen in descending the river made friendly demonstrations.

21. An inspection of the Louisiade district was made in November. It was not found that agriculture or planting of any kind was making progress at Panaietti, which was otherwise in a satisfactory condition. The village policemen seemed to be useful.

The prison of Nivani was clean, but discipline had become lax. The islands of Ware and Murua were put under the jurisdiction of the Louisiade Division, as being more accessible to that magistrate.

There were not more than half a score of European miners on Sudest, the search for gold on that island having passed chiefly into the hands of the natives.

There was some prospect that a company for quartz-crushing would commence operations there.

On Misima there were about eighteen miners. All these islands were apparently quiet and peaceful.

There were some twenty to thirty European miners on Murua, all doing fairly well, and there was good reason to think that gold-mining would be prosecuted there for some time. The island was declared a gold-field.

At Kiriwina the condition of affairs was unsatisfactory, the natives having become threatening and troublesome to the mission and to traders, and quarrelsome among themselves. The conduct of the pearl traders had been worse even than that of the natives in some respects.

The most arrogant and aggressive tribe was visited and some of their men arrested. A patrol was sent through the island, and all arms that could be seen were taken and destroyed. This practically put a stop to carrying arms.

The Reverend Mr. Fellowes was obtaining some footing in spite of the machination and opposition of the traders, and undeterred by the hostile menaces or indifference of certain natives.

22. As the Government Agent of the Rigo district had been attacked by the natives of Kokila, in the inland part of his jurisdiction, and as the attack had resulted in two or three of his carriers being wounded, one severely, and in the loss of much of his

baggage, it was necessary to make a visit of inspection to the neighbourhood of the hostile tribes. The Government Agent had been making an extended tour in his district for the purpose of bringing new inland tribes under control, and he had with him a force that could use thirteen guns, a strong party where the natives employ only spears. The reports current among the tribes of the Rigo district were that all those of the interior were combining to offer a determined resistance to the Government.

All the tribes up to and on Mount Duamaga (Mount Douglas) were friendly.

The chief of Kware arrived to inform us that the three villages of Dokura had joined the eight of Kokila to fight the Government. The march was continued beyond Duamaga in fighting order. When we were camped at Buredabu (Margaret river) the chief of Dokura was induced to visit us, and finally his tribes brought in and surrendered the man that had badly wounded one of the Government Agent's carriers on the former expedition. The chief of Mara came into camp and said that Kokila had already been so severely punished that they would not again face the constabulary. All their villages were found nearly deserted, but a few men were captured, and their district was patrolled in several directions without any opposition presenting itself. The neighbourhood was pacified without further bloodshed.

There was good opportunity on this expedition of learning the excellence of the sketch map of the district prepared by Mr. Cuthbertson on his expedition to Mount Obree, a wonder of accuracy when one bears in mind in what a short space of time it was composed. The district is populous, the people active and industrious.

23. In an inspection of the Western Division, begun about the middle of December, the villages first touched at were those at the mouth of the Bailala river. A trader had established himself there to deal in copra. No attempt whatever had been made by the mission there to begin to teach English. The natives seemed to be quiet, but they reported certain breaches of the peace in some inland villages. The Western Division was suffering from a severe drought, which had much impaired the condition of the station. Discipline had been well maintained over police and prisoners, but the serious ill-health of the Resident Magistrate had necessarily greatly interfered with the work of the district. No progress was being made in European settlement, but Daru is a useful and convenient place of call, and of rest and shelter for large numbers of fishing boats. The impression conveyed to one by an inspection of the important village of Turituri was that the people were steadily advancing in the adoption of certain European ways, in hiring themselves out as labourers, and in wearing calico, &c., but were at the same time letting their houses, formerly bad, become much worse. This tribe is perfectly law-abiding, but has no mission teacher. Of the neighbouring community of Mawatta similar remarks may be

made; they possess a teacher, but he was making no progress whatever, his school being practically unattended. In the end of December the tribes on the Binaturi river were visited as far as Jibu. Halts were made in certain small villages, the inhabitants of which were generally found wearing European clothes. All were very friendly. For several miles the country consisted of deep alluvial land, much of which is wet and swampy in rainy weather. At many places there are considerable groves of cocoanut trees. Beyond this area of flat land there begins a succession of low, rolling, grassy ridges, which seem to give character to a large area inland in that direction. It was thought that the Binaturi could be ascended by boat for probably 20 to 30 miles, and Mr. Hely has since taken the whaleboat to near Jibu.

To proceed inland from Mawatta by land it was necessary to obtain carriers from Masingara, as the men of Mawatta, accustomed, they say, to earn 2*l.* a month, demand exorbitant pay for carrying. Masingara has no mission teacher, but is well-governed by an intelligent chief and two village policemen. From Masingara the party, headed by the chiefs of Mawatta, Masingara, and Badu, went as far inland as the village of Somlos. The country between Masingara and Somlos consists principally of low undulating grassy ridges, with eucalyptus trees, crossed here and there by small streamlets, along which there grow the ordinary forest trees of the country. Somlos was friendly, and its people are now frequent visitors to the coast. The strong village of Mirapo was put on friendly terms with Mawatta and Masingara, places which they have subsequently visited several times. The appearance of the Badu tribes showed clearly that they had made great progress. They had built good houses, and a large number wore European clothes. They are quite peaceful, but there is an outstanding dispute between them and Mawatta with reference to some cocoanut groves planted by the fathers or grandfather of the Badu people before the arrival of the Mawatta tribe in that part of the country. The Resident Magistrate decided the matter in favour of Badu, but there may still be trouble over this question of ownership. It was found that at least the stretch of country extending from Badu to Somlos rests on a bottom of old coral rock.

The London Missionary teacher stationed at Boigu had collected a considerable number of people from New Guinea to that undesirable residence on the pretence of educating them there. The teacher did not trouble himself in the matter, but the New Guinea natives were evidently of great use in growing food for his countrymen, and in furnishing them with wives. Their condition was miserable.

24. No natives were observed on the coast between the Wassi Kussa and the Morehead river. It appeared that the tribes on the Morehead river had been attacked and dispersed by the Tugeri, their villages having been burned down and many people killed. They were living in small camps under poor shelter at

different places in the forest, but at some distance from the river, so as to be concealed from travellers. They were friendly, and anxious that we should proceed at once against the Tugeri tribes. This, of course, was impossible, as they live many miles beyond our boundary; but it was decided that the steam launch and a strong body of constabulary should remain in the west until renewed attempts could be made to meet the marauders at the season at which they were nearly sure to carry out the next invasion of this territory.

The latter half of January and the first part of February were given to an inspection that extended from Daru to Orokolo.

The people of Parama had greatly improved their houses. They have a very efficient local police establishment. They try to live and dress like Europeans. They professed to regret the long-continued absence from duty of their teacher, so that there was no school for the children. Their coast line seems to be sinking, and it will probably soon become uninhabitable if there is no speedy change in the sandbanks and currents near the island.

The natives of Gasiri had left the island of Parama, and were building on a low confined site at the mouth of the Wiraraturi Creek on the mainland, a move of questionable advantage. They have a teacher, but education in the school stagnates beyond the alphabet. They are quiet and peaceful, and their police manage their own internal affairs. The smaller and less important village of Siu was found to be in a satisfactory condition. This community is not of sufficient magnitude to have a policeman or a teacher.

The large village of Sumai was found to be one of the most advanced in the colony. The community is large enough to have four village policemen and two chiefs. Being very numerous they were formerly proportionately aggressive, and behaved badly to weak tribes in that part of the country. Now they are active in establishing and enforcing peace among other communities. Many young men of this tribe engage as labourers, and perhaps the majority wear European clothes. They have a considerable trade in sago. This large and progressive tribe, the least nomadic of the great tribes of the estuary, has no teacher.

Kubira, formerly much behind its neighbours of Iasa and Sumai, seemed to have advanced rapidly of late. They are now a well-settled orderly community.

At Iasa the chiefs and police were heard and consulted in regard to a reported assault by the Wabuda people on the police and others from Wiorubi. The chiefs of Iasa are intelligent and the police are very efficient. Many of their young men hire themselves to employers, and the community carries on a considerable trade in sago, which extends as far as Murray and Darnley Islands. The tribe of Saguana has to a large extent adapted European ideas. They are a well-settled community, but

on this occasion they were loud and persistent in their complaints against their teacher, the only one stationed on that, the principal, mouth of the Fly. The charges were dealt with by the magistrate, when it was proved that the teacher had acted foolishly and arbitrarily. After settlement of the dispute and payment of compensation for the damage done there would be no permanent dislike to the teacher, but of course he would be less respected for some time.

A visit to Ipisia was the occasion of impassioned complaints against the teacher associated with that tribe. He and the complainants could not then be brought face to face, but there could hardly be any doubt that his conduct had been as reprehensible as that of his colleague at Saguana. Unfortunately these two men were the only representatives of the mission in connexion with the Fly river. Their extravagances proceeded from want of supervision.

In every other respect the condition of Ipisia was satisfactory.

On arrival at Wabuda Island it was ascertained that all the people had left their houses and fled to the swamps. The villagers of Gesoa showed they had nothing to do with the attack on the Wiorubi people, who had gone to Wabuda to trade when they were assaulted. The chief of the offending tribe came in on the second day. They delivered up the ringleader, but two others could not then be found, but were subsequently surrendered. The fear of punishment restrained a large number of people from participating in the assault on the Wiorubi men, and induced them to aid the latter to get away from their assailants.

The tribe next called upon was that of Maipani. No great advance has been made by this people, the chief of whom is one of the most backward men of the sept. They were still on unfriendly terms with Sisiamia and with the Gama tribes, though not at actual war with either of them.

It was noticed in proceeding along the coast from the Fly to the Purari that the sea had during the previous two years seriously encroached on the shore; at many places a third to half a mile of land had quite disappeared. This was probably owing to an unusually strong and protracted south-east monsoon. The change was effected in such a short time that subsidence could hardly have had much to do with it.

As the weather was favourable for travelling along the coast no village was stopped at between Maipani and Orokolo. In the latter district were two or three traders making copra. Orokolo has some village policemen, but they are so far removed from any European control that they are not so efficient there as they are in many other places. Nothing required special attention at Orokolo. There they have at least one excellent teacher.

On the 2nd February a call was made at Apiope, on the Aivei. Matters there were also in a satisfactory condition, but they confirmed the report heard at Orokolo, that the Koriki had murdered some of the Maipua people. The latter were quiet and friendly, but in deep mourning. All the tribes of the Purari

delta were in a troubled and agitated condition, chiefly on account of the prestige earned by the Koriki through this massacre of people that had visited them as friends to sell clay pots. A visit was made to their villages, on which the war cry was immediately raised; but before the warriors could reach the bank of the river they were fired upon and driven off. Nothing beyond destroying the prestige of the tribe could be effected then. The Kaimare villagers, though nervous on account of the Koriki occurrences, were friendly. No tribe on the Purari delta appeared in arms, with the sole exception of the Koriki men.

A friendly reception was accorded to the party by all the tribes at Risk Point with the exception of the large village of Terebo. There the men drew themselves up on the bank, armed to the teeth. No collision took place then, but a future misunderstanding with that tribe, the only one that appeared in arms, is not improbable.

The formerly very populous villages on the Gawai seemed to have lost a large part of their population, and with their strength their arrogance had disappeared. They were timid and difficult to approach.

The fragmentary tribes of the lower Bamu were very friendly. They have no permanent villages, and seemed to be afraid to build any on account of Sisiamia.

On the site of the former great village of Sisiamia there was not even a hut standing. It seemed that the Matapaia tribe, on the Waviturai branch of the Bamu, had been driven from their home by Sisiamia. They were friendly, but poor, and in wretched circumstances. The Sisiamia men were found establishing a new village a few miles below the old one. They were duly warned to let their neighbours alone in future.

The tribes on the northern half of the Fly estuary appeared all quiet, and to be making decided progress in following up the Kiwai civilisation.

25. On a visit to Samarai in the end of March it was found that the prison there was overcrowded; otherwise the condition of the station was satisfactory. At the London Missionary Society's station at Kwato it was observed that excellent work had been done. Foreshore had been reclaimed, comfortable houses for the students had been built, and four native students were leaving the station to begin the labours of village teachers. The teaching of English was being pushed by the Rev. C. W. Abel.

On the 29th of March the village of Taututu, the lowest on the Mambare river was found to be practically deserted, the inhabitants having been driven out by the tribes of Anjiga and Gouwo. It is not yet clear whether the latter are British or German subjects. The tribes between Taututu and the Government Station were not anywhere unfriendly, although they were somewhat nervous and timid. They did not carry weapons. In the bay at the mouth of the Mambare river a station was fixed a mile and a-half on the south side of the boundary, and a commencement was made to cut a line on a true westerly bearing in order to ascertain

what tribes on the Ikore are subject to British jurisdiction. The natives met with were friendly, but they are great thieves and probably treacherous. Matters were quiet in and near Collingwood Bay, but progress is slow there, as contact with Europeans is rare in that district. The principal chief in Milne Bay received a visit, the first object of which was to encourage him in a great task of road-making carried out by the natives under his supervision. All the tribes of that populous district were living peaceably and working up a considerable trade in copra, &c.

At Tubitubi matters were quiet, progressive, and satisfactory but the Rev. Mr. Field reported that the birth-rate was unprecedentedly low and infant mortality excessively high.

The lessee of the Conflict Group had made considerable progress in planting cocoanuts, and was producing sponges of an encouraging appearance. The island to be reserved in this group for public purposes has not yet been definitely selected.

The condition of the Government Station at Nivani was fairly satisfactory, but the advances made in planting and in house-building were hardly up to the average of other stations.

Several days were spent amongst the tribes on the north side of Misima. They were formerly quarrelsome, very thievish, and much addicted to murder. The latter crime has been effectually suppressed, and they have much improved in other respects. They have now several fairly good village policemen in their communities.

Nothing of any serious consequence was reported at the various places called at on the coast between Mairu and Port Moresby.

26. On the 11th May the island of Boigu was reached on a journey undertaken with the express object of meeting the so-called Tugeri tribes that raid this colony from Dutch territory. From Boigu the smoke of the hunting parties of the invaders was seen in the district of the Wassi Kussa. Next day a detachment of some dozen Tugeri canoes was encountered in the channel between New Guinea and the Talbot Islands. Those that remained in the channel were immediately attacked; several casualties were inflicted on them; their canoes with the whole of their food and camp gear were all captured, and their owners fled for refuge into the mangrove islands of the Talbot Group, without having been able to use their bows and arrows with any effect. No prisoners were carried away, although they were much desired. The possibility of securing prisoners could not be taken advantage of because the fugitives were already outside the jurisdiction of this colony, and for the further reason that there was no accommodation for them in the boats, while the task of meeting and defeating the main body was still unaccomplished. It was therefore necessary to remain satisfied for the moment with the complete rout inflicted in this division. Meanwhile a large number of canoes had assembled at the mouth of the Wassi Kussa, apparently with the object of examining the position. Four of them started westward along the New Guinea shore as if to return home. These were intercepted by a boat,

the launch being aground, and their crews returned overland to the main body on the Wassi Kussa, leaving their canoes, which were broken up. The fire of the Lee-Metford rifles caused the canoes at the mouth of the Wassi Kussa to retire up that channel for safety. A number of canoes that were about the west end of the Talbot Islands escaped westward and were pursued with no success for several miles past the Miabuta Point. Next day the main camp of the Tugeri, situated on the western bank of the Wassi Kussa, about three miles from its mouth, was rushed and captured in splendid style by twenty men of the constabulary, who were supported by only four Europeans.

The whole of the fifty war canoes belonging to the main body were captured, with all their camp gear and food, as well as the greater part of their arms, which they threw away in the rout. They left three dead in the camp, including their leader. In the face of the severe loss inflicted on these marauding tribes, it is very unlikely that they will ever return to the Wassi Kussa. About half of all the canoes captured were distributed among the heads of New Guinea families then resident at Boigu. The south-east wind set in with great violence during these operations, so that it was not possible to proceed along the coast to further harass the Tugeri on their long and arduous journey homewards without food, arms, clothes, or shelter. So far as punishment was concerned, it was thought to be already sufficiently severe.

27. It will be remembered that, to enable operations to be carried out with greater freedom and precision in dealing with these tribes, a suitable natural boundary was agreed on by Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the Queen of the Netherlands. Some effort seems to have been made by the Dutch authorities to settle these tribes, but their endeavours do not appear to have been renewed after they attacked the magistrate posted among them and made his removal necessary. It was then seen that on this side the only course that would afford relief effectively would be to raise the native constabulary of this colony to the level of being able to inflict a signal defeat on the Tugeri marauders while executing a raid in this possession. This object has been kept steadily in view. It was thought that the force was in a condition to meet the invading tribes, and when the men were brought face to face with the intruders it was easy to see that they did not give a thought to the disparity in numbers, and were quite unmindful of the great fame of the Tugeri as accomplished bowmen. The dash and spirit with which they carried the Tugeri camp showed clearly that the constabulary are now quite able to repel any similar incursion that may take place in the future.

28. A visit of inspection was made towards the end of June to the Mekeo district. It was noticed that the Rev. H. Dauncey had succeeded in forming a solid district station at Delena. The Rev. Dr. Ginocchi, the working head of the Sacred Heart Mission, had left the district and the colony, to the great regret of

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both Protestants and Roman Catholics alike. The village and community of Pinupaka seemed in a satisfactory condition. The greatest improvement effected recently in Mekeo was the clearing of good main roads, which was being carried out under the supervision of Mr. Kowald. For this no payment was made by the Government.

The village of Mohu was in a satisfactory state in all things save that the children would not attend school; less than a dozen boys and under a score of girls mustered in their classes.

Most of the Abiari people were absent in the gardens. They are well-conducted, but have no resident teacher. The Bereina tribe was quiet and prosperous. They have a strong mission established among them.

The Government Station was in good order; constabulary and prisoners under strict discipline. An excellent start of mission work had been made at Vaepa, where there were on the school rolls the names of 164 children. They seemed to readily attend school, but it is still a novelty to them. So far, this is a station of great promise. At Inawi one could not fail to notice that the labour of the well-tried and devoted missionary, Father Vitali, had produced a beneficial effect on that tribe. In spite of illness and discomfort he still adheres closely to his post, and works incessantly and patiently.

It appeared that the father stationed at Yéku had needlessly alarmed himself and others because some of the young men of that tribe had boastingly said among themselves that they would not clear a road when ordered to do so by the Government officers.

His nervous, though apparently well-meant, interference might have caused serious trouble had it not been made in a quarter where the strength of the Government had already made itself felt. The village constables of the Mekeo district are already very useful in suppressing crime and offences. The lower part of the Kiva (Ethel Creek) was inspected. No good land cultivable, was found on it. Attention was given to a difficulty that had arisen between the London Missionary Society and the Sacred Heart Mission. The former had some years ago bought land in Vanamai, and had (as afterwards proved) duly paid for it; it had also been surveyed at their expense, and they had built on it, and had a teacher resident there for some time, but, as a station, it had been left vacant apparently three or four years. Missionaries of the Sacred Heart had gone there, bought land from the natives—which they said was not a purchase—cleared it, built on it, and lived on it for about six months without respect for the law prohibiting the acquiring of land from aboriginals. The claim and rights of the London Missionary Society were withdrawn, so that there was no further obstacle to the issue of a grant of land there to the Sacred Heart Mission for religious purposes, when that body should apply for it, a precaution entirely neglected by them. This was the first serious encroachment of one mission on another in this colony, and in this case it was certainly not carried out because there were no villages unprovided with teachers in the

district of the mission making the encroachment, for there remain in their own district proper, many villages entirely unprovided with teachers of any kind.

MISSIONS.

29. In mission work there were some very decided advances to note during the year, in the case of the Wesleyan Mission and in that of the London Missionary Society.

The former body has already attained to the position of training a considerable number of students that will in a few years become teachers among their countrymen. There are about a score of them at Dobu station alone. A most important matter in connexion with the education of these youths is that they are not allowed to accustom themselves to indolent habits or to consider that a teacher should not perform manual labour. They are the most successful cultivators in their district. They are being educated in their own climate; they grow their own food; and by the example of industry they put before their countrymen they are already teachers. From these young men great things may be expected in the evangelisation of the Wesleyan district. The Rev. W. Bromilow, the chairman of the New Guinea district, seems to have started from the first with the sound conviction that the district can become completely evangelised only through the medium of native teachers. In this opinion probably every person that knows the country will concur. The Wesleyan Mission is certainly not losing time in giving effect to it in practice. They succeeded, through the Rev. Mr. Fellowes, in founding an important station in the Kiriwina Group. This was at first attended with unusual difficulty, but by tenacity and perseverance this has been overcome, and the future of that centre seems now assured.

The weak point in the teaching of this mission—from an administrative point of view—was that English did not receive so much attention as was desirable. This is in all teaching here a matter of the utmost importance. If this is ever to become an English-speaking country, now is the time to encourage the use of that language, and in this the missions could undoubtedly lend very valuable assistance. All Government officers have been instructed to see that English is used as the language of the different stations among police, native employees, and prisoners. This, together with contact and association with miners, traders, &c., would probably eventually make English the common language of the coast districts. The missions, by teaching English, could greatly assist this movement. To native young men engaging to work for Europeans some knowledge of English is of such value that it is impossible not to think that secular education imparted to them without an acquaintance with English is but of little utility or advantage. The teaching of English is now receiving more attention from the Wesleyan Mission; and no doubt every one of the native teachers will be trained to teach that language, and, perhaps eventually to teach in it; but unfortunately

some of their South Sea teachers do not know any English themselves. Such men—and there are not a few of them in the service of the Wesleyan and London Missionary Societies—may be excellent catechists, but they cannot be held to be qualified to act as teachers in a colony like this, where, from the multiplicity of dialects and the necessity for a common language, the power to teach English becomes of such special importance. It is an undoubted fact that, as regards religious teaching, the earnest seriousness of the Wesleyan Mission has made already a deep impression on the character of many natives in their district, which is undergoing a real transformation, which radiates from their score of churches and fifty preaching stations.

30. The London Missionary Society has many stations established for a number of years at which apparently not a word of English is understood. With the teachers to whom that tongue is unknown this is all but irremediable. But splendid progress has been made at certain places during the year by this the oldest, most experienced, and widest established mission. At Port Moresby the Rev. A. E. Hunt has been able to actually establish the system of teaching the upper school in English. That this gentleman has done so, and does it successfully, is a notable and congratulatory event in the history of education in this colony. Under the direction of the Rev. Dr. W. G. Lawes, a very suitable training college has been built in the Central District. It is well situated for extending mission work towards a great and populous district of the interior. It is on a healthy site, is easily accessible from the sea, and has about 150 acres of cultivatable land attached to it. Here the Papuan youths will receive their final theological course before proceeding to occupy villages as teachers. There is sufficient land attached to the college for the industrial training of the youths, so that they will not be allowed to lapse into indolent habits or to become used to a mode of life different from that they will have to live as village teachers. This mission has always recognised the necessity for training Papuans as teachers, many of whom are now doing good work. They certainly reach the hearts of their countrymen in a way that no foreigner can imitate.

During the year Dr. Lawes put through the press an extended and much improved edition of his already excellent grammar and dictionary of the Motu dialect, by far the most accurate and valuable work ever issued on a Papuan language.

At Kwato the Rev. C. W. Abel established systematically the teaching of English, which may be said to be practically the language of that station. A novelty introduced by Mr. Abel in teaching deserves special notice on account of its originality and its undoubted great utility. It consists in imparting to the children in catechismal form a *resumé* in English of the native laws passed by the Government. Mr. Abel has kindly furnished the following note on his system:—

"The twenty-two native laws which the children at Kwato have committed to memory in English, and which are now being taught

at five out-stations in Milne Bay, affect their personal relations with each other, their attitude towards personal offenders, and the way they are expected to regard other people's property.

"They deal with their duty in regard to the formation and preservation of roads from village to village, and not only prohibit them from destroying valuable trees, such as rubber-trees, but enjoin upon them the necessity of planting cocoanuts if called upon to do so by the Government.

"They are taught obedience to those in authority over them, and the necessity of assisting, if called upon to do so, in the proper carrying out of the law in their villages.

"Perjury is denounced, and they are apprised of the necessity of keeping strictly to any agreement they may make for work before the Government with traders, masters of vessels, and others.

"I have found, with a little practice, they are easily able to pronounce English words with remarkable accuracy; and, with a little explanation in their own language, they soon pick up the meaning of these laws in English."

In the Western District the London Missionary Society decidedly retrograded during the year, in consequence of the absence of the Rev. James Chalmers and the ensuing want of supervision over the teachers. On the return of that gentleman to his post, matters at once began to assume a different aspect, and the mission forthwith set about regaining the lost ground.

31. The Sacred Heart Mission suffered a great loss in the departure of the Rev. Dr. Ginocchi from the colony. Up to the advent of this gentleman the mission had favoured and practised the pagan and unsanitary custom of burying the dead beneath or near the dwelling-houses of the living. Under his wise direction this practice was discontinued by the mission, and the efforts of the Government were seconded by the father to compel the natives to bury the dead in appointed cemeteries. The harmony with which Dr. Ginocchi worked with this neighbours, and his tolerance towards other churches, won for him general respect and esteem. The most important steps made by this mission during the year were the very successful establishment of a mission at Vaepa, with a branch at Aipiana, and, towards the end of the year the taking possession, somewhat irregularly, of the village of Vanamai, in a way that could hardly be regarded otherwise than as an encroachment on the London Missionary Society. The district proper of the Sacred Heart, Mekeo, which has not been touched by the London Missionary Society, is not nearly fully occupied by the Sacred Heart, but preparations are being made for extension there. Their missions at Inawi and at Vaepa are of a high order; at other stations the results are not always commensurate with the labour that has been bestowed on them, nor with the sacrifices made by the members of the mission, who have suffered far more from sickness than any other people in the colony.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1895-6.

About half a score of stations were in operation during the year, about one for each year of the life of the mission. Several were being taken in hand about the end of the twelve months.

In some respects this mission is at a disadvantage. The number of fêtes and ceremonial observances requiring the presence of the missionaries at head-quarters is a decided drawback to them as teachers. They cannot, like the married ministers of the Protestant missions, put before the natives the example of family life after the European model, an object lesson that has been by no means without influence at Dobu, Kwato, Kerepunu, &c.

At Mohu some progress is made in teaching English to a few little girls, but practically it may be said that English is neglected by the mission. Indeed, few of the missionaries know that language. They have, however, some eight native boys, aged from 12 to 15, at Thursday Island for the purpose of learning English, and these may perhaps be able to teach this language by-and-by, It does not appear, however, from a report of the missionary entrusted with their training, that special attention is given to English in their case; but this is a matter that will be watched by this Government, for there can be no doubt that the training of these boys at Thursday Island will be in some respects a serious disadvantage to them. They will become declimatised; they will get accustomed to European food; and they are completely cut off from work and such industrial occupations as the planting of native gardens, by which they will principally have to live in their own villages if they ever become catechists there. Unfortunately they can have no opportunity of learning anything about European cultivation at Thursday Island.

At present this mission has no Papuan teacher in its service; and it is not easy to see how it can avail itself to any large extent of such auxiliaries for a long time to come, unless the rule of celibacy is dispensed with in the case of native teachers. If this is not done, the natives will be unfit to ever advance beyond the degree of catechist, and the work of the Sacred Heart Mission will have to be carried on chiefly by European fathers and foreign brothers, which will, for a large mission, be a heavy expenditure. Some of these fathers are excellent missionaries, and certain brothers furnish fine examples of devotion to duty, but it is doubtful that Europeans ever so thoroughly gain the sympathy of these natives and understand them as fully as their own trained countrymen would, or even as South Sea teachers do. The Sacred Heart Mission has suffered severely from sickness, and mortality has been high in their ranks, especially among the industrious and ever-devoted sisters. Yule Island has never had a good sanitary reputation among natives; the Mekeo district is low and damp, and the mission has no hill sanatorium. It is, however, extending further inland than the other missions, and may before long reach the hills. This mission is desirous of encouraging agricultural industry in the district, and it is hoped that its influence in that direction may be of advantage to the

natives of that part of the country. The mission is liberally supplied with land wherever it requires it in its own district, but it is not the policy of this Government to grant land to any mission to help it proselytise.

32. The Anglican Mission gained but little in power during the year. The result is that the period closes with the whole of the three great rivers and all the north-east coast beyond Cape Vogel totally without any mission settlement of any kind. They had some half-dozen stations at work, but some of them in an initial and rather rudimentary state. When the missions agreed among themselves to divide the colony into certain specific fields for each, the north-east coast was left exclusively to the Anglican Mission. Prior to that date this mission was inclined to think itself unfairly confined by not being entrusted as well with the care of the islands now occupied by the Wesleyan Mission; but the north-east coast alone has proved to be so much beyond its strength that by far the greater portion of it is entirely neglected. It is sincerely to be hoped that mission work of a serious kind may be established soon on the now unoccupied northern coast and on the large rivers. The Rev. Copland King, the head of the mission, has done all that it was possible for him to do with the few half-trained teachers at his disposal. Personally he has done as much as it was possible for any one man to do. Exceptionally good work has been accomplished at the head-quarters of the mission, where, however, the omission of the English language from the list of the subjects taught is, from the public point of view, much to be regretted. But what has been done outside that centre does not amount to much. Unless there is a large increase of strength to this mission it would be hopeless to look to it for the evangelisation of the north-east coast. Mr. King has under tuition a small number of youths that may perhaps furnish two or three teachers; but one man, however able and willing he may be, can do but little towards supplying such a large area of country with native teachers.

33. There is one serious difficulty confronting alike all the missions: the irregular attendance or the non-attendance of scholars at the different schools. At certain places where the London Missionary Society have been long-established, and where they had formerly well-filled benches, there are now very poor schools. The falling off at Port Moresby, the oldest London Missionary Society school, is nearly in as great proportion as it is at Mohu, the oldest school of the Sacred Heart on the mainland. A native regulation dealing with this subject has been prepared, and the draft submitted to the several missions for their views on it. This regulation is to provide means in a mild and tentative way for enforcing school attendance.

It is becoming a matter of anxious consideration that the missions do not extend their stations inland. Up to now their operations, except in the case of the Sacred Heart Mission, which has not got half a score of miles inland, hardly leave the coast line, and there are in the interior many populous districts. From

what precedes it will be seen that there is likely to be much delay in filling up even the coast line itself in certain parts of the colony. The tendency is naturally to take up the coast villages first. But if this is done systematically, and the inland districts are then left unprovided for, serious difficulties will ultimately arise with regard to the interior. Already the Sacred Heart Mission complains of being too much cut off from the coast; but it does so somewhat unreasonably, because the coast line was occupied in its locality before it established itself there; and the heads of that mission refused to take up the then entirely unoccupied north-east coast or to settle on the eastern islands, for which they were offered the active assistance of a Government vessel. It will, however, do good work if it extends inland, as must have been its original intention, to the tribes of the interior, where it will find a very extensive and unoccupied field. The Wesleyan Mission will have no trouble in reaching the interior of their islands, and already many hill tribes come to the coast in their circuits to attend Sunday services, while other tribes are shifting down permanently to the sea.

At the present rate of expansion it will take the London Missionary Society at least two or three generations to occupy their hinterland; without further increase of strength the Anglican Mission cannot do so within a period so near as to possess any practical interest to those now living. The complete evangelisation of the tribes of this colony would therefore seem to be still a long way off.

But even constituted as they are at present the missions contribute powerful aid towards the settlement of the country. No secular education is being supplied to natives except that which is given them by the missions. All missionaries of British citizenship, and some of these that are not, constantly inculcate the sentiment and duty of loyalty to the Queen and of obedience to the Government. The example of the disinterested life of the missionary unquestionably produces an effect on native feeling and character. Missions, to whatever church they belong, cannot but do great good here so long as they are not led into the temptation of proselytising. Any proselytising mission would assuredly do much serious harm among these natives. The total absence of missions would be preferable to proselytising.

General Native Work.

34. There was undoubtedly considerable progress made during the 12 months in the settlement of natives. The murder of Mr. Clark, on the Mambare, was fortunately the only case of the kind that occurred during the year; and it was perpetrated in a district that had but little acquaintance with Europeans, and among men that were strangers to the country, quite unaccustomed to deal with wild natives. The influence of the Government was better established near each centre of authority, and in many cases its area was largely extended. The full force of village

policemen or of chiefs doing police duty at the end of the year amounted in round numbers to about 120 men, as follows :—

West - - -	17 chiefs 26 police
East - - - - -	25 „
Louisiades - - - -	14 „
Rigo, &c. - - - -	22 „
Mekeo - - - -	20 „
Total - - - -	124

In their districts, serious crime has been reduced to limits about as low as it reaches in ordinary civilised communities. There are, however, large areas towards the centre of the country where no Government control whatever is exercised; and there are many inland districts where at present it only exercises an inhibitory influence, under which great raids are no longer indulged in, but where solitary and petty crimes go unpunished. The limited means at the disposal of the Administration do not admit of any attempt to reduce all the tribes of the colony to authority at one time or even within a short space of time. That would require an expenditure probably ten times as great as that which is at present available. The slower process of working from certain established centres, being the only one practicable, must therefore be persevered in. The Government continues to have good reason to be satisfied with the aptitude of the natives for civilisation and with their growing regard for established authority. One of the difficulties officers complain of is that the name of the Government is from personal motives frequently abused by Europeans and others to intimidate natives. It is, of course, fully recognised that any man should invoke the name of the Government with natives to prevent the committal of any crime or offence, or to preserve peace; but when threats of Government punishment are held forth in order to procure the services of natives, or to extort unfair trade advantages, then much harm is done. Unfortunately, such cases are by no means unknown. At least one officer has complained several times that certain teachers in his district are very ready to lodge complaints against natives, and as soon as the latter are dealt with judicially then the informant or complainant proceeds, with the knowledge of the native, to beg for the remission of the sentence. In all districts, however, the missions render valuable service to magistrates in bringing to their knowledge offences that might otherwise remain unknown.

Less progress has been made than might have been expected in making the natives extend their cocoanut plantations. It would appear that officers have been so keen on the suppression of crime and the extension of their authority to new tribes—matters that require much travelling over difficult country—that the more domestic concerns of the settled tribes have not had as yet so much attention as they require. It is a matter for con-

gratulation that some of the missionaries now take a lively interest in encouraging the natives to extend their plantations of cocoa-nuts, &c. At the Christmas and other meetings of natives it is well known that, for example, the Rev. Dr. Lawes and Mr. Abel have earnestly urged this matter on natives. Such counsel will certainly not be altogether lost.

On Sudest Island a considerable number of natives wash out gold on their own account; in other settled districts they engage to work for miners, traders, &c., or they make copra. The collection of rubber, however, promises to become the principal native industry. For this there is large scope in the colony, and it is an occupation that is congenial to natives. The number of natives engaged before the Government officers for terms of service was—west, 163; east, 511; Port Moresby, 268. Unfortunately other officers have omitted this point in their reports.

It appears that in certain districts the greater part of the time of natives is taken up in preparing for and attending feasts. The general excuse has been that they were to celebrate the establishment of intertribal peace, but this threatens to become a nuisance. The opening of cemeteries is now so well established and widespread that there is no longer any apprehension of serious trouble in suppressing house and village burial. The only place where obstinate difficulty was really created was in the Mekeo district, at the time that the Sacred Heart Mission favoured and practised this most insalubrious mode of sepulture.

If continues to be a matter for congratulation that relations between Europeans and natives have remained perfectly tranquil. The treatment of natives by miners and settlers generally has on the whole been exemplary. The miners that have worked in this colony up to now have been nearly all hardworking respectable men, who have dealt fairly by the native, although there have, of course, been instances in which they were too ready to take the law into their own hands. And there have been a few cases in which natives have been unjustly dealt with.

35. One of the most interesting subjects in ethnology to which attention has been given during the year is that of Totemism. That this exists in a modified form from the Louisiades to Orangerie Bay seems clear. It also extends up the north-east coast; but it appears to have been quite unknown, in a recognisable form, west of Cloudy Bay. It is a matter that requires much further and very patient investigation, and its elucidation proceeds but slowly. Birds are the most common emblems of the totem tribes, but animals, fishes, and even insects are used. Pictorial representation of the totem has not been observed anywhere. The general belief seems to be that the totem contains the spirit of a common ancestor. The native would not kill his totem animal, and was prepared to go to war with any person or tribe that did so. Its principal effect is in regard to sexual relations. No man can marry a woman having the same totem as himself, even if their tribes live so widely apart as to be

complete strangers to each other. All sexual commerce between men and women of the same totem is completly prohibited. Any violation of this great principle was nearly sure to lead to serious disturbance, unless it were heavily paid for. To have a common totem does not interfere with or prevent fighting between, individuals or tribes. The children take the totem of the mother.

People belonging to tribes west of Orangerie Bay, after they are brought into contact with totem tribes, readily adopt the idea that it is the correct thing to have a totem, and they are always prepared to mislead the inexperienced inquirer. On the other hand, its influence is waning already in the east in at least some respects. Serious men may even now be seen eating their sacred totem with evident relish, but its influence in match-making will probably not become wholly extinct for several generations to come.

Native dialects.

36. The brief and very imperfect vocabulary of words from the Upper Musa River was obtained chiefly from natives of Gewaduru and Gudari villages, but partly from natives on the Adaua River. It has since been supplemented by a small collection made by Mr. W. Simpson, chiefly on the Moni River The natives of the Upper Musa and Moni Valley converse with each other freely, but it is not at all clear yet whether they speak the same dialect or not. There are certainly considerable differences in the names given to common things in the two districts.

The Mambare vocabulary has been obtained from the tribes nearest to the Government Station. It is a language that is understood over a considerable area of country on the coast nearly as far south as the Musa River. Its compilation will be made more complete as Mr. Green finds time and opportunity of adding to it.

The Dungerwab dialect was written down from members of that tribe. They lived on the Wassi Kussa inlet before they were broken up and dispersed by the invading Tugeri. They would very speedily take to English if they had the opportunity of mixing much with English-speaking people. All that is known of the Bangu language is printed with the Dungerwab dialect.

37. To the subject of native land tenure there was only one contribution during the year, an unusually complete one, by Mr. Hely, on Kiwai Island in the Fly estuary.

An interesting description was furnished by Mr. J. B. Cameron of a native burial he attended. This took place in the Kabadi district, some two score of miles west of Port Moresby. Perhaps the points of most interest in it are the painting of the body as if for war, and ornamenting it with native jewellery.

Public Works.

38. Practically all public work was confined to what could be effected by prison labour. In the Central District it consisted in

weeding and in adding to the cocoanut plantations, and in building a sea-wall on the foreshore. Messrs. Burns, Philp, and Co. erected a substantial wharf, at which vessels drawing 10 feet can discharge cargo at low water. The sea-wall was laid out so as to reach from this wharf to the Government sheds near the foot of Paga Hill. In the Rigo district some main paths were well cleared by the several tribes, acting under the direction of the Government Agent, and progress was made in substantially bridging the creek where crossed by the road leading from the sea to the Government Station. The cocoanut plantation was also extended.

In Mekeo the principal undertaking was road-making, especially a trunk path from the Government station to a convenient navigable creek near Mohu village. There was much work in renewing the station buildings, which are of native materials. In the Western Division some new houses were built and substantial fencing was carried out, while the foreshore was faced with timber, and considerable progress was made in constructing a stone jetty.

At Samarai roads were improved, and a beginning was made in forming a sea-wall on the south side of the island.

At the Tamata station, on the Mamba, work was confined to building houses and planting food, labour which was performed on a large scale in proportion to the number of hands employed.

At Nivani more land was cleared, and some cocoanuts planted. At the Western Station, at Mekeo, and at Tamata all buildings are of native materials, and are constructed by the officers respectively in charge there. This applies also to the police quarters at Samarai and Nivani.

Substantial constabulary barracks of wood and iron were built at Port Moresby and Rigo; also a powder magazine, and quarters for the boat's crew at Port Moresby.

Some small boats were constructed for the Government, but no new vessels of any considerable size.

TRADE.

Details of imports and exports, navigation, and postal matters are given in the Appendices* to this report.

Imports.

39. The total of imports into the three ports of entry has been:—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888–89 - -	6,016	5,019	—	11,108
1889–90 - -	6,798	9,305	—	16,104
1890–91 - -	7,455	8,075	—	15,530
1891–92 - -	10,379	13,377	—	23,755
1892–93 - -	13,173	12,088	—	25,261
1893–94 - -	15,331	11,428	1,741	28,501
1894–95 - -	12,079	14,036	2,253	28,367
1895–96 - -	20,912	12,235	1,374	34,521

* Not printed.

The chief items imported have been :—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Food stuffs - -	5,400	7,124	4,463	6,037	6,252	7,181	8,062	9,328
Drapery and clothing	1,735	1,582	1,712	2,838	3,414	3,002	2,901	3,149
Tobacco and cigars -	996	1,290	2,354	3,257	2,407	3,985	3,059	2,733
Hardware - -	927	1,123	1,535	2,677	2,828	3,162	3,440	4,844
Beverages - -	805	1,143	688	890	1,625	1,760	1,116	1,755
Building materials -	216	1,086	1,224	1,965	1,474	2,889	1,727	1,916
Other articles -	999	2,756	3,554	6,091	7,261	6,522	7,997	10,794
Total -	11,108	16,104	15,530	23,755	25,261	28,501	28,302	34,521

Food stuffs show a substantial increase, which is more or less due to the increase in the European population attached to the Woodlark Gold Field and the auriferous country on the Mambare River. Although the value of the tobacco imported is less than the value of what was imported last year, the imports of tobacco in quantity exceed last year's imports by about five tons. Hardware displays a considerable advance, but mining implements account for a portion of this. An increased European population means an increase of imported beverages. Miscellaneous articles show a decided rise in value.

Exports.

The total value of exports, as entered at the Custom House, has been :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888–89 - -	5,071	871	—	5,943
1889–90 - -	5,458	997	—	6,455
1890–91 - -	7,678	755	—	8,434
1891–92 - -	8,099	3,190	—	11,289
1892–93 - -	6,290	8,675	—	14,966
1893–94 - -	9,555	3,542	1,854	14,952
1894–95 - -	8,399	5,059	2,757	16,215
1895–96 - -	10,600	8,826	475	19,401

The exports show an increase of over 3,000*l.* Gold, however, represents over 2,000*l.* of this. The gold that actually is exported must be much more than what is reported at the Customs. It may be safely asserted that the gold obtained from Woodlark Island alone from 1st July 1895 to 30 June 1896 amounted to some

thousands of pounds sterling in value. The statement that follows gives the annual returns of gold reported at the Customs for export :—

	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.
Ounces - -	3,850	3,470	2,426	1,235	582	1,128	728	1,373
Value - - -	£14,387	12,440	8,371	4,322	2,236	3,906	2,565	4,735

The principal export in value after gold was sandalwood, of which there was exported 524 tons, valued at 4,035*l.*, being an increase of 146 tons on last year's exports.

It was stated in the last annual report that there was every reason to suppose that indiarubber would take a more prominent position in this report. It has done so. A couple of hundredweight was the export for 1894–95. During the financial year last ended nearly three tons were sent away, which was valued at 609*l.* This industry should increase, as indiarubber collecting can be carried on by natives without European supervision ; and the knowledge of how to prepare it, and of its use as an article of trade, is spreading amongst a race who are always on the look out to find products which they can exchange for European goods.

On the list of exports sponge appears for the first time. Sponges are being cultivated in the lagoons of the Conflict Group of islets.

A small quantity of ginger was exported. In a wild state there is plenty of it in the country.

Pearls and pearl-shells show a decrease. The Trobriand beds, from which the pearls are mostly obtained, are, of course, not so prolific as they were at first. The diving for pearl-shell seems to take fits and starts, the chief obstacle in the prosecution of the work being the depth of the water in which the beds are found.

There is but little difference in the copra export. The following table gives the export of this article since the foundation of the Possession :—

			£
1888–89	- -	76 tons, valued at	550
1889–90	- -	43 „ „	250
1890–91	- -	198 „ „	1,433
1891–92	- -	340 „ „	2,084
1892–93	- -	194 „ „	1,159
1893–94	- -	450 „ „	2,885
1894–95	- -	427 „ „	2,830
1895–96	- -	381 „ „	2,748

The total volume of trade for the year was—

	£
Imports - - - -	- 34,521
Exports - - - -	- 19,401
Total - - -	- 53,922

Shipping.

40. The shipping entered inwards and outwards was wholly British. The total number of foreign-going vessels entered inwards was 89, representing 10,387 tons; the entries outwards were 60 vessels, representing 9,472 tons. This gives an increase in tonnage, as compared with the previous year, of over 8,000 tons, due in part to a large steamer having been during the year put into the carrying trade between the Possession and the Australian colonies.

The coasting vessels entered were 169; tonnage, 3,639.

The mail schooner has made regular trips during the year.

Postal.

41. The postal business for the year, as compared with previous years, shows a slight increase. The following is a tabulated statement for the past eight years:—

Article.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.
Letters received -	2,366	3,166	2,664	4,393	4,079	6,280	6,279	7,130
Letters despatched -	2,587	2,586	2,191	3,917	4,011	5,297	6,189	4,987
Packets received -	93	111	142	45	230	157	129	243
Packets despatched -	98	84	88	78	427	467	468	281
Newspapers received	4,071	6,845	6,042	8,505	6,749	8,131	7,046	7,197
Newspapers despatched.	574	590	468	756	276	240	776	828

FINANCE.

Revenue.

42. The amount of revenue paid into the Queensland Treasury by the Possession during the year was 6,547*l*. It is compared below with the revenues of previous years:—

Items.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs dues -	2,416	2,893	2,525	4,428	3,757	5,067	4,622	5,974
Gold field receipts -	187	20	23	24	23	54	26	78
Fees - - -	2	4	4	10	157	115	78	21
Fines - - -	25	41	46	34	24	22	27	37
Licenses - -	2	11	21	136	106	317	247	293
Miscellaneous -	42	44	53	149	535	291	109	144
Total - -	2,679	3,015	2,673	4,783	4,604	5,866	5,109	6,547

Expenditure.

43. The sum of 15,000*l.* appropriated to the ordinary administrative services of the year was expended. The sum of 437*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* allowed for the support of two new Government agencies was also expended for such purpose. The expenditure of the 15,000*l.* is classified and compared as follows with that of previous years:—

Head of Expenditure.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Civil list salaries -	2,633	3,300	3,290	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,248	3,186
Other salaries -	1,796	2,381	3,476	3,559	3,707	3,479	3,640	3,779
Vessels and boats -	2,747	2,564	2,938	2,993	1,600	1,308	2,114	1,587
Allowances - -	1,296	2,548	1,500	1,356	1,748	1,454	1,614	1,388
Buildings and works	185	1,144	979	780	872	435	397	661
Agriculture - -	2	137	355	335	146	203	145	142
Mail service - -	445	—	—	—	450	750	900	900
Miscellaneous -	1,662	2,898	2,459	2,675	3,174	4,071	2,342	3,357
Total - -	10,769	14,975	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000

SS. "Merrie England."

44. During the year ending the 30th June 1896, the "Merrie England" steamed 15,708 miles and consumed 714 tons of coal, making an average distance of 22 miles for each ton of coal.

The financial year of the steamer ends on the 31st March. The gross total expenditure for the year was 7,327*l.* 14*s.* Of this sum 433*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* was refunded by earnings, leaving a net expenditure of 6,894*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* The Imperial Government provided 3,000*l.* and the three contributing colonies 1,333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* each for the steamer's maintenance.

Establishments.

45. At the end of the year the personnel of the establishments of the public service, besides the civil list officers, was as follows:—

Resident Magistrate,	Central Division -	Dr. J. A. Blayney.
" "	Western Division	B. A. Hely.
" "	Eastern Division -	M. H. Moreton.
" "	Louisiades -	A. M. Campbell.
Government Agent,	Mekeo - -	C. Kowald.
" "	Rigo - -	A. E. English.
" "	North-east Coast -	J. Green.
Commandant -	- - -	A. W. Butterworth.
Government Storekeeper	- -	H. N. Chester.
Treasurer and Collector	- -	D. Ballantine.

Sub-Collector, Samarai - -	W. E. Armit.
Sub-Collector, Daru - - -	H. W. de Lange.
Head Gaoler and Overseer of Works -	J. Meredith.
Commander, s.s. "Merrie England" -	M. A. Jones.
First Engineer, "Merrie England" -	H. Phillips.

The only new post created was that of Government Agent for the north-east coast. The service sustained at the end of the year a sensible loss by the retirement, on account of ill-health, of Commander Jones. During the time he was in command of the steamer he was able, by means of special knowledge and proficiency, to give valuable assistance in preparing sketch surveys and in determining geographical positions, while from his acquaintance with business transactions he was in a position to attend, with decided advantage to the service, to many matters of a mercantile nature when he was present in the ports of Queensland.

Towards the end of the year Mr. R. J. Kennedy resigned his appointment as Resident Magistrate of the Louisiades, and retired from the service.

LANDS.

46. It appears that no Crown grant was issued during the year 1895–96, although a considerable number of small holdings of land were alienated to missions, traders, and others.

The most discouraging element in the administration of the Possession is the fact that no European planting on a scale of any importance has been started, although the colony presents considerable advantages of soil, climate, and labour.

The contributing colonies agreed to expend a special grant of 1,000*l.* in seeking out and roughly surveying a certain number of blocks of land suitable for different kinds of agriculture. These it is intended to offer on very favourable terms to settlers possessing the means necessary to enter on serious cultivation. This survey was, however, not entered on, though sanctioned, in the year under review.

METEOROLOGY.

47. Meteorological returns have been sent in only from two stations—Port Moresby and Daru. These show clearly that the year was in the west an unusually dry one. The rainfall at these two stations has been :—

Year.	Daru.	Port Moresby.
	Ins.	Ins.
1895–96 - -	69·49	32·15
1894–95 - -	116·52	40·11

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1895–6.

At Port Moresby rain fell on 54 days, 24 inches out of the total of 32 falling in nearly equal proportions in January, February, and March.

At Daru rain fell on 175 days, 58 inches out of the total of 69 falling in the first five months of 1896.

The warmest month at each station was December. At Port Moresby the highest December temperature was 88 degrees, the lowest 83 degrees. At Daru these were 84·3 degrees and 78·3 degrees respectively.

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS.

48. A brief notice by Mr. de Vis is attached* on certain additions to the public collections of this colony preserved in the Queensland Museum.

It is, as pointed out by the Curator, very much to be desired that an illustrated catalogue of this collection shall be prepared. The difficulty is the usual one—lack of funds. This colony possesses no means whatever that could be made available for such a purpose.

It will be noticed that this collection, which is purely of a national character, has already assumed large proportions. It was not practicable to establish it in the Possession on account of the expense it would have occasioned. It is only by the liberality of the Government of Queensland that its existence has been made possible, and that it is accessible to the public. It has already been pronounced by competent authority to be the best Papuan collection yet brought together. With the continued co-operation of the Government of Queensland it can soon be made greatly better than it is now, before it has become too late.

49. A melancholy interest is attached to the notes from the late Baron Sir Ferdinand Von Müller, as they are the last that can be furnished by him. They were not elaborated so fully as was intended, but it has been thought that they would be useful and of interest, even in their present form. One of the most cherished studies of that great and enthusiastic man of science was the flora of New Guinea, of which he possessed unique knowledge, and in which, especially in the alpine plants, he took the very deepest interest. His hearty, sympathetic, and faithful co-operation will be greatly missed in this important branch of research in connexion with this new colony in a new and greatly diversified country.

GENERAL.

50. One of the most striking events of the year was the arrival in this colony of the remains of an expedition fitted out in Kaiser Wilhelms-land, and led by the well-known traveller, Herr Otto Ehlers, who was accompanied by Herr Piering, Officer of Police at

* Not printed.

Friedrich Wilhelmshafen. They had, on setting out, forty-three coloured carriers and a creole servant. It was calculated that they carried with them provisions for thirty days. They were furnished with eight rifles and two shot guns, but were not provided with instruments for geographical determination, nor with materials for making collections in natural history; but they carried some trade goods. The party started inland from the mouth of the Francisca River on the 14th August. On the 23rd August they reached an inland village, which must have been in German territory. There they remained for three days, and it does not appear that they saw another native till they reached the gardens of the Mobiabi people on the Lakekamu River on the 21st October, sixty-seven days after they had begun the journey overland. Rainy weather set in even before they reached the inland village, and there the first death occurred. They met with no native track beyond that place, but were constantly exposed to rain and damp fogs while cutting their way through dense forests, up and down steep mountains, and across precipitous ravines, swimming rivers, devoured by myriads of insatiable leeches, and suffering from cold and fatigue, to which was soon added a more fatal enemy—hunger. The clothes of the two leaders were torn to pieces by thorns, and the carriers, having no tent, had to rest all night cowering in the rain. At what date they reached British territory it is not possible to say, but their food was probably exhausted or nearly so by that time. Herr Ehlers seems to have done courageously and nobly all that it was possible to do to keep up the courage and spirits of his party, but fate was against him.

They were reduced to eating grass, the leaves of trees, &c., and it does not appear that the leaders had any better fare than the carriers. Dysentery reduced them all to extreme debility, and soon ten men died. About the 30th September it would appear that they struck some considerable branch of the Lakekamu, but the strength of the brave leader and of his companion (Piering) was now completely exhausted. An effort was made to descend the river on a raft, which soon capsized, drowning the already comatose and dying Europeans. The survivors were apparently twenty-one in number after the death of Herr Ehlers. They travelled nine days along the river, and then built rafts, by which they descended six days before they reached the first cocoanut trees of the Mobiabi tribe on the 21st October. Then the wanderers were found by some of the Mobiabi men, who at first took them to be thieves. As soon as the Mobiabi people discovered their pitiable condition they treated the strangers with great kindness, taking them to their village and giving them the best welcome they could. The chief, who is an intelligent and kindly man, gave them his only shirt. In the village there was only one tobacco-pipe, that belonging to the chief, and this he immediately presented to the guests. After a few days' rest the nineteen men that reached Mobiabi were conveyed to Toaripi, where some of them were temporarily received by the teacher of the London

Missionary Society. The chief of Toaripi set off to search for a missing man, and after much trouble succeeded in finding him.

Altogether the conduct of the natives was very gratifying in this matter. The survivors were brought to Port Moresby by Mr. Kowald, Government Agent for the Mekeo district. At Port Moresby they were properly cared for till they were returned to Friedrich Wilhelmshafen by the s.s. "Merrie England."

Up to his dying moments Herr Ehlers seems to have thought of the rescue of his followers, and it is owing to his last directions that they reached the coast and escaped with their lives.

Much of the above information has been obtained from the admirable report of Landeshauptmann Rüdiger, published in the "Deutsches Kolonialblatt."

51. This Report should not be closed without acknowledging the obligation of this colony to Sir Hugh Nelson, the head of the Executive Government of Queensland, for many acts of valuable assistance rendered during the year in a variety of ways, both through the personal influence and authority of the Premier himself and by his permitting and directing different officers in the service of the Government of Queensland to perform special services for this Possession. Captain Almond, Mr. McDowall, and Mr. Deshon were always ready with advice and with active practical aid whenever they were appealed to. They have again well merited the thanks of this Government, as they have done in previous years.

It should also be mentioned that General Sir Henry Wylie Norman, in retiring from the position of Governor of Queensland, ceased during the year to be directly concerned with the affairs of this colony. Sir Henry Norman took much interest in the development of the Possession, and, with the acumen of an officer of great experience, he was always prompt and generous in noticing meritorious service and in encouraging in this way the different officers and employees of this Administration, even down to the lowest grades.

I have, &c.

WM. MACGREGOR.

His Excellency
the Right Hon. Lord Lamington, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Queensland.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 237.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896-97.

(For Report for 1895–96, *see* No. 197.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

September 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
210	Hong Kong	1896
211	St. Lucia...	"
212	St. Vincent	"
213	St. Helena	"
214	Seychelles	"
215	Mauritius	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	"
219	Lagos	"
220	Gold Coast	"
221	Labuan	"
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
231	Barbados	"
232	Lagos	"
233	St. Vincent	"
234	Sierra Leone	"
235	Falkland Islands	"
236	Straits Settlements	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 237.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

(For Report for 1895-96, *see* No. 197.)

GOVERNOR LORD LAMINGTON (QUEENSLAND) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Brisbane,
5th April 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose the usual number of copies of the Annual Report of British New Guinea for the year ending 30th June 1897.

The evidence given in the Report of the progress made in the general administration affords ground for special satisfaction. It gives further evidence how incessantly is Sir William MacGregor engaged in the arduous work of administration, and how, despite the small resources at his command, his devotion serves to overcome the many difficulties connected with the carrying out of his duties.

I have, &c.,

LAMINGTON.

168—750—7/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1396–97.

ANNUAL REPORT on BRITISH NEW GUINEA from 1ST JULY 1896 to 30TH JUNE 1897.

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LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR WILLIAM MACGREGOR to LORD LAMINGTON.

British New Guinea,

17th January 1898.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to submit the usual Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 1897. The arrangement of subjects is generally the same as that of previous years.

LEGISLATION.

1. Ordinance No. IV. of 1896 was passed after it was found that the mineral osmiridium occurs in traces round the eastern spurs of Mount Scratchley and in the valley of the Chirima. It became advisable to extend to prospectors for this metal the same privileges as are given to prospectors for gold. The Ordinance does this by including the metals of the platinum group under the term "gold" in the goldfields laws in force in the Colony.

Ordinance No. V. of 1896 appropriates for the services of the year ending 30th June 1897 the sum of £15,000, the ordinary amount available for a period of twelve months under the arrangement between the Imperial Government and the contributing Colonies, as well as the sums required for the maintenance of the S.S. "Merrie England."

Ordinance No. VI. of 1896 appropriates a special sum of £1,000 for the purchase and preliminary survey of blocks of land to be set apart for the encouragement of European settlement. The three contributing Colonies agreed that this sum should be provided from the accumulated and undivided revenue collected in the Possession.

Ordinance No. I. of 1897 was passed to impose a licence on firearms. This measure was very unpopular, principally because there is not such a licence in the neighbouring Colonies. It would have been difficult to carry out in some parts of the Colony under the circumstances, and it has lately been repealed.

Ordinance No. II. of 1897 makes certain amendments to "The Native Labour Ordinance of 1892." It has been the policy of the Government to relax or remove restrictions on the employ-

ment of native labourers in proportion as the advancing pacification of the country has made this possible. This law permits of natives being taken for engagement before any officer in a settled district qualified to deal with labour contracts. By a Proclamation issued on the 4th February the whole of the southern coast of the Colony, from its boundary on the west as far as Samarai, was declared to be a settled labour district under the Ordinance; the effect of which is that labourers, recruited, for example, in Orangerie Bay, or in the western portion of the Gulf of Papua, may be taken before a magistrate at Port Moresby for engagement, thus avoiding the considerable time and trouble that would be required in taking them to Samarai or Daru.

The same law also renders it compulsory on an engaged native, under liability to imprisonment, to perform the duties he has undertaken.

Ordinance No. III. of 1897 amended the Customs Ordinance in so far that the duty on spirits was raised by it from 12*s.* to 14*s.* a gallon.

Ordinance No. IV. of 1897 amends the Pearl-shell and Bêche-de-mer Fishery Ordinance of 1894, by prohibiting the fishing of or dealing in pearl-shell of less dimensions than five inches. This law was necessary to bring restrictions in the Possession into conformity with those applied in Queensland waters. Certain exceptional cases are dealt with similarly in the two Colonies.

Ordinance No. V. of 1897 amends the Goldfields Act in force in the Possession by enabling the Administrator in Council to extend beyond three years from the date of the proclamation of a locality as a goldfield the term during which Asiatic or African aliens shall not be admitted upon such a field. This brings the mining law of the Possession into unison with the law on the same point in Queensland.

2. During the year only one Regulation was passed by the Native Regulation Board, dealing with native carriers for Government. This Regulation, subject to certain precautionary measures to guard against abuse or oppression, makes it obligatory on such natives as are fit to act as carriers, to serve once a year in that capacity, if called upon to do so. Carriers are to be fed by the Government, and to receive such pay as may from time to time be determined by the Administrator.

3. Certain Proclamations were issued having the force of law By a Proclamation made on the 5th August, the removal of any cattle, horses, sheep, goats, dogs, or pigs from the Island of Sudest to any other island or district in the Possession is prohibited.

This was rendered necessary by the thoughtless introduction into Sudest of cattle affected by ticks.

Owing to the reported existence of small-pox in German New Guinea, that territory was, by a Proclamation made in August, declared to be an infected place under the quarantine law of British New Guinea.

By a Proclamation made in March the introduction of cattle, horses, or mules into the Possession from any place in Queensland south of "the tick boundary" is permitted under certain restrictions. By a Proclamation issued in June 1896, the introduction of such animals from Queensland had been absolutely prohibited.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

4. The staff for the administration of justice remained practically the same as in the preceding year.

The subjoined tables of cases dealt with by the several courts have been prepared by His Honour F. P. Winter, C.M.G., Chief Judicial Officer :—

MATTERS dealt with JUDICIALLY during the YEAR ending 30th June 1897.

CENTRAL COURT.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

Number of Persons Committed for Trial.	District from which Committed.	Persons Committed—how Disposed of.
17	Central District ...	13 tried, 4 discharged.
22	Eastern District ...	12 tried. 10 committal quashed.
25	Western District ...	21 tried, 1 discharged, 1 sent back to magistrate, 2 awaiting trial.
Total ... 64		

THE COURT held EIGHTEEN CRIMINAL SESSIONS at the PLACES and TIMES, and with the RESULTS, undermentioned :—

No. of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		Trobriand Islands, 2*nd to* 4*th July*, 1896.	
2	1 murder, 1 abusing girl under twelve.	1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 not guilty.	1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
		Fergusson Island, 10*th July*, 1896.	
1	1 murder ...	1 guilty of manslaughter.	1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
		Samarai, 13*th July*, 1896.	
1	1 wounding with intent, &c.	1 guilty of wounding	1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Normanby Island, 25*th to* 28*th July*, 1896.	
3	1 assault, 2 murder.	1 guilty of assault, 2 guilty of manslaughter.	1 six months', 1 eighteen months', 1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
		Orangerie Bay, 12*th August*, 1896.	
4	2 murder, 2 assault.	2 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of assault, 1 not guilty.	1 two years', 1 twelve months', 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Port Moresby, 18*th September*, 1896.	
5	3 murder, 1 arson, 1 indecent assault.	2 guilty of murder, 1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of arson, 1 guilty of indecent assault.	2 death, 1 one years', 1 four months', 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Samarai, 12*th November*, 1896.	
3	3 larceny ...	3 not guilty.	

CRIMINAL SESSIONS—*continued.*

No. of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		Samarai, 26*th to* 28*th Nov.*, 1896.	
1	1 abusing girl under ten.	1 not guilty.	
		Samarai, 8*th December*, 1896.	
2	2 murder ...	2 guilty of manslaughter.	2 two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Nivani, 9*th to* 11*th Jan.*, 1897.	
2	1 wounding with intent, &c., 1 assault.	1 guilty of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, 1 guilty of assault.	1 ten years' penal servitude, 1 one months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Dufaure Island, 14*th January*, 1897.	
1	1 murder ...	1 guilty of manslaughter.	1 two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Port Moresby, 23*rd January*, 1897.	
3	3 murder ...	3 guilty of murder ...	3 death.
		Port Moresby, 27*th January*, 1897.	
1	1 murder ...	1 guilty of murder ...	1 death.
		Port Moresby, 2*nd February*, 1897.	
1	1 murder ...	1 guilty of manslaughter.	1 two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1896–97.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS—*continued.*

No. of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		Samarai, 9*th April*, 1897.	
2	Breaking gaol ...	2 guilty	1 four months', 1 one months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Saguana, 17*th to* 20*th May*, 1897.	
21	3 murder, 1 manslaughter, 1 rape, 14 indecent assault, 1 abusing girl under ten, 1 wounding.	4 guilty of manslaughter, 1 not guilty of rape, 13 guilty 1 not guilty of indecent assault, 1 guilty of abusing girl under ten years of age, 1 guilty of wounding.	4 one years' imprisonment with hard labour, 3 two years' imprisonment with hard labour, 10 eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour, 1 three years' penal servitude, 1 three months' imprisonment, &c.
		Port Moresby, 24*th to* 26*th May*, 1897.	
9	3 murder, 6 manslaughter.	2 guilty, 1 not guilty of murder, 5 guilty, 1 not guilty of manslaughter.	2 death, 1 three years' penal servitude, 1 eighteen months', 2 one year's, 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Samarai, 11*th June*, 1897.	
1	larceny	guilty	nine months' imprisonment with hard labour.
Total 63			

CIVIL BUSINESS.

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings, &c.
2	Appeals from Wardens' Courts.
2	Applications for order under section 34 of Intestacy Act by Curator of Intestacy Estates.
2	Applications for order to administer by Curator of Intestate Estates.
3	Applications by Curator of Intestate Estates for directions.
2	Applications by Executors for probate.
Total 11	

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

INDICTABLE OFFENCES JURISDICTION.

District of Court.	No of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Inquiry.
Central District	18	15 murder	17 committed, 1 discharged.
		1 manslaughter...	
		2 indecent assault	
Eastern District	31	9 murder	22 committed, 9 discharged.
		2 abusing female child... ...	
		4 assault...	
		12 larceny	
		1 rape	
		1 wounding	
		2 breaking out of gaol... ...	
Western District	25	5 murder	25 committed.
		13 indecent assault	
		4 wounding	
		1 rape	
		1 manslaughter...	
		1 abusing female child ...	
Total ...	74		

SUMMARY OFFENCES JURISDICTION.

District of Court.	No. of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central District	57	6 larceny	5 convicted, 1 discharged.
		1 breach of Bêche-de-mer and Pearl-shell Ordinance.	1 convicted.
		4 breach of Constabulary Ordinance.	4 convicted.
		16 assault...	15 convicted, 1 discharged.
		1 careless use of fire	1 convicted.
		4 breach of Prisons Ordinance	4 convicted.
		1 breach of Wild Birds Ordinance.	1 convicted.
		1 using threatening language ...	1 convicted.
		23 breach of Native Labour Ordinance.	23 convicted.
Eastern District	81	8 assault...	3 convicted, 5 discharged.
		6 drunk and disorderly ...	5 convicted, 1 discharged.

SUMMARY OFFENCES—*continued.*

District of Court.	No. of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Eastern District —*continued.*		1 breach of Quarantine Laws...	1 convicted.
		33 breach of Native Labour Ordinance.	24 convicted, 9 discharged.
		3 breach of Prisons Ordinance	3 convicted.
		4 breach of Constabulary Ordinance.	4 convicted.
		1 breach of Merchant Shipping Act.	1 convicted.
		25 larceny	20 convicted, 5 discharged.
Western District	6	2 assault...	2 convicted.
		4 larceny	4 convicted.
Total ...	144		

CIVIL JURISDICTION.

District of Court.	No. of Actions Tried.	Nature of Action.	Result of Action.
Central District	4	4 debt	3 verdict for plaintiff.
			1 verdict for defendant.
Eastern District	14	11 debt	3 verdict for plaintiff.
			3 verdict for defendant.
			5 settled out of court.
		3 damages	1 verdict for plaintiff.
			1 verdict for defendant.
			1 settled out of court.
Western District	—	Nil.	
Total ...	18		

NATIVE MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION (FORBIDDEN ACTS).

District of Court.	No. of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central)	146	6 spreading lying reports ...	6 convicted.
		11 assault	11 convicted.
		44 larceny	42 convicted, 2 discharged.
		1 abduction	1 discharged.
		5 disobeying magistrates' orders	5 convicted.
		5 adultery	5 convicted.
		49 breach of Roads Regulation	49 convicted.
		24 breach of Burials Regulation	24 convicted.
		1 sorcery	1 convicted.
No. 3 (Eastern)	39	13 adultery	10 convicted, 3 discharged.
		3 larceny	2 convicted, 1 discharged.
		3 spreading lying reports ...	2 convicted, 1 discharged.
		11 sorcery	11 convicted.
		7 breach of Burials Regulation	7 convicted.
		2 using threatening language ...	2 discharged.
No. 1 (Western)	17	12 adultery	12 convicted.
		4 assault	3 convicted, 1 discharged.
		1 larceny	1 convicted.
Total ...	202		

CIVIL JURISDICTION (CIVIL CLAIMS).

District of Court.	No. of Actions Tried.	Nature of Claim.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central)	9	7 debt	6 for plaintiff, 1 for defendant.
		2 damages	2 for plaintiff.
No. 3 (Eastern)	1	1 damages	1 for plaintiff.
No. 1 (Western)	—	Nil.	
Total ...	10		

TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court		64
In Courts of Petty Sessions (exclusive of the 64 cases that went up to Central Court).		154
In Native Magistrates' Courts		202
In all Courts		420

TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court	11
In Courts of Petty Sessions	18
In Native Magistrates' Courts	10
In all Courts	39

5. During the year eight persons, all of them aboriginals, were sentenced by the Central Court to undergo capital punishment, In no case was the death sentence actually carried out. These cases were briefly as follows :—

In September, a native of Yarumi, on the Astrolabe Range, was tried for a murder committed by him in 1892, when his tribe made an attack on the Veiburi sept. Two other members of the same aggressive party were tried for the same offence in 1895, and were convicted. In their cases the sentences were commuted to five years' penal servitude. The accused acknowledged the crime with which he was charged. The sentence was commuted to five years' penal servitude.

In 1894 some of the men of the village of Borabora, who were wandering around in the woods, were attacked by a body of men from the village of Bemuni. Two of the Borabora natives were killed. The cause of this attack was the marriage of a girl belonging to a third village to one of the Borabora men. Negotiations had been opened by one of the Bemuni men, called Moiamoria, for a marriage between himself and the girl. He and his friends seemed to have regarded the marriage of the girl to the Borabora man as a grievous injury, which, according to native custom, required to be avenged. Moiamoria was captured in 1896, and tried for his participation in the above murder. The capital sentence was commuted to five years' penal servitude.

In January, three natives of Uberi were convicted of the murder of certain members of the tribe of Awaiatenumu. The Uberi represented the strongest section of the natives of the district who, under the name of Ebé, had become notorious from the attacks made on the travellers, Mr. Morrison and Dr. H. O. Forbes. They have alway been aggressive in recent years, and have been engaged in many conflicts with their neighbours. Ten

men of the Uberi met a man and a small boy of Awaiatenumu in the bush. They killed the small boy. The murderer acknowledged that he had committed the homicide.

A party of the Uberi made a direct attack on Awaiatenumu village, and killed three of its inhabitants. Two of the assailants were convicted. They also admitted their participation in the crime.

These cases were all regarded as episodes in the intertribal warfare that had existed there periodically for many generations. The strife had been forced on the people attacked, who really wished for peace; but Government authority had not been established over the Uberi. The sentences were commuted to five years' penal servitude in each case.

In January, a native of the Hagari tribe, which occupies the southern spurs of Mount Service on the banks of the Naoro and Ruguoa, was convicted of murder. His tribe had made a descent on a village on the Lower Vanapa, and killed a woman there. The constabulary, under the leadership of the Commandant, crossed from the Lower Vanapa, traversed several mountain ranges, and arrested one man after a slight skirmish with the tribe. The accused admitted that he assisted in committing the murder. The Hagari tribe was unknown to the Government previously, and they had no acquaintance with the administration in any way. The capital sentence was commuted to five years' penal servitude.

In May, two men of the Womai village of Karama, in Freshwater Bay, were sentenced to death for the murder of a reputed sorcerer. It had been currently said of this latter that he had caused the death of five persons by sorcery. The two men convicted killed the sorcerer the day after the death of the child of one of them, under the idea that he had brought about the death of the child, and that they were therefore performing a meritorious service. The sentences were commuted to five years' penal servitude.

Sittings at the Central Court were held as under:—

In the South-Eastern District 1, at Nivani.

In the Eastern District 11: 1 at Kiriwina; 1 at Fergusson Island; 6 at Samarai; 1 at Normandy Island; 1 at Orangerie Bay; 1 at Dufaure Island.

In the Central District 5, at Port Moresby.

In the Western District 1, at Saguana.

Of the 64 persons committed for trial before the Central Court, 46 were actually tried; and at the end of the year 2 were still awaiting trial. The others were discharged or acquitted.

Of the 37 cases due to violence, 23 were charges of murder, 7 of manslaughter, 3 of wounding, and 4 of assault. The sexual crimes charged were 19.

In the lower courts 144 cases were disposed of in summary jurisdiction. Of these, 56 were for breach of the Native Labour Ordinance, and 35 for larceny. Six persons were proceeded against for being drunk and disorderly, all in the Eastern District.

In the civil jurisdiction of the lower courts 18 cases were heard.

In the Native Magistrates' Courts 202 cases were tried. The principal offences were convictions under :—

The Road Regulation	49	cases
For stealing	48	„
For breach of Burial Regulation ...	31	„
For adultery	30	„
For assault	15	„
For sorcery	12	„
For spreading lying reports	9	„

Ten cases came before the civil jurisdiction of the Native Courts.

The total number of cases dealt with in all Courts was 459.

Visits of Inspection.

6. On the 20th July a call was made at Dufaure Island, chiefly to pick up a party that had been sent to visit the inland tribes of Orangerie Bay. These were found to be friendly, and the district to be in peaceful quiet.

The gaol and prisoners were seen to be in a satisfactory condition at Samarai, while several improvements on the island were in progress.

On 22nd July the station at Nivani was inspected, with a satisfactory result. The plantations of the station were doing well. The prison, which was clean, contained only four prisoners.

At Hula Bay, on Sudest Island, a careful inspection was made of a body of some fifty prisoners employed temporarily in the service of the British New Guinea Gold Mining Company. The company were endeavouring to open up some gold-bearing quartz reefs near the centre of the island, the first attempt of the kind made in the Possession. They had, however, several miles of road to make over very difficult ground, and on this the prisoners were nearly all employed. They were under the sole management of the chief gaoler, with the usual staff of prison warders and an armed guard of the constabulary. These officers were paid by the company, who also maintained the prisoners and paid a small sum a day for each prisoner. The men were in excellent physical condition, well provided with food and medicine, and they were doing good work. Unfortunately, the troublesome disease "beriberi" made its appearance among them before they had completed the year agreed on, and several of them died of

that malady. It has on several occasions manifested itself among the prisoners, but it was not expected among fine strong men, who were sufficiently well fed, and were camped in the open forest.

It was found that numbers of natives of Sudest were working at gold-washing on their own account, on regular miners' rights. A visit was made to Woodlark Island at the end of July. At that time there were about 190 miners on the island, the greater number in a camp about eight miles from the sea, chiefly under canvas, but with a few houses of native material. Mr. Thompson, a storekeeper at this place, was, by the request of the miners, appointed a justice of the peace and postmaster. There were no disputes between the miners themselves. They raised no objection to the natives of the island working gold on their own account, but demurred to Europeans using natives to exploit the field on behalf of the former. The great majority of the men were industrious workmen of good character. Many men had done well on this field. There had not then been much sickness, and, fortunately, there had been no trouble between the miners and the natives. It was thought that up to that time about 12,000 ozs. of gold had been obtained on the island.

A short halt made at the north side of Misima found all quiet and satisfactory there. There were not more than half-a-score of European miners on the island. The natives there do not prosecute the gold industry on their own account like those of Sudest.

7. On the 6th August I started from the mouth of the Mambare River on a journey of inspection that was extended right across the island. The lower villages of the Mambare were practically deserted through fear of the natives of the Gira River. The people of Peu were timid, as they had some time previously tried to entrap Mr. Green, the Government Agent of the district. The inhabitants of Manatu were friendly. The Government station on the Mambare was found to be in good order. During the few days we were at the station natives came there each day to sell food. They did not, however, give one the impression that they could be safely trusted if they thought themselves the stronger party. It was on this visit to the Mambare that we for the first time learned how the natives make the hole for the reception of the wooden handle in stone clubs. It is chipped out by means of a small stone about the size and nearly of the shape of a rifle bullet. Thunderstorms began for the first time that season on the 9th August, on the mountains to the north-west of the station.

A start was made from the station on the 11th August, and the same day, after passing over a large area of nearly flat and good land, we camped at the Green, an affluent of the Mambare coming from Mount Otovia. Beyond the Green the country passed over was considered very unsuitable for ordinary agriculture, though it is well watered. It took our party four days

to reach Simpson's store on Mount Otovia. This was a camp consisting of two or three native houses built by the pioneer prospectors of the district, of whom Mr. William Simpson had been leader. They cut a track from Clarke Fort, on the left bank of the Mambare, as far as the junction of the Chirima with the Mambare, by far the most arduous undertaking ever performed by any private exploring party in the Colony. We followed this track, and consequently did not require to cut our way through the bush until we began to ascend Mount Scratchley. No trace of native occupation was met with between the Tamata and the Chirima, but there was abundant evidence of a large rainfall in that district, and this seems to favour the growth of several kinds of rubber-producing trees. From Simpson's store all the carriers that could be spared were sent back to the Government station. We arrived at the Chirima Junction on the 20th. Several miners were on their way to the coast, they being of opinion that the wet season was already setting in. It was soon quite plain that the Mambare River specially receives the drainage of Mount Scratchley, which it embraces on three sides.

At the crossing of the Chirima we built a strong, small log-house for stores, and for the defence of the two or three men left in charge. There we were visited by about a hundred natives from the village of Neneba, who brought us a large quantity of native food. They are the only tribe that actually live on a spur of Mount Scratchley. They were seen to be somewhat darker in tint than the coast people of the Central District, but to be distinctly lighter than the average Fly River man. They are of fair size, and wiry in build. No wavy-haired native was seen in that part of the country. The young men wear the eyebrows; their elders have whiskers. The features are good and not irregular. The men wear the T-bandage. The women, in addition to this, wear a petticoat and a mantle. The chief ornaments are earrings made of lizards' tails, and cigarette-holders carried in the lobe of the ear. The scaly ringworm was already among them, and known by the Louisiade name of "sipoma." They had the bow and arrow, and stone clubs. They, like many of the bow and arrow tribes, have no pottery. Besides the ordinary indigenous native crops, they cultivate maize and the tobacco of the western country. They have no cocoanuts and no betel-nut. The floors of their houses are 6 or 8 feet above the ground, the roof thatched with a kind of pandanus leaf. On the 30th of August the party reached the McLaughlin Creek, a fine mountain stream on the east side of Mount Scratchley, where all the miners except one were at work. They had a considerable number of native boys under engagement, from the north-east coast. These transported the food and stores from the Government station to the mining camps, and also worked on the field with fair skill and industry. They did not seem to be ill-treated, but the work was hard.

We followed the tracks of the prospectors to the furthest point inland, on a spur of Mount Scratchley facing the north end of the Yodda Valley, which begins there and extends southwards along the foot of the main range. Some of the natives of that place had made certain signs of friendly advancement towards the prospectors, but no communication was actually opened. On the 1st September the ascent of Mount Scratchley was begun, and on the 12th we pitched camp on the top. On the second day an altitude of 5,000 feet was reached, and we were then in a temperate climate. All vegetation was covered by moss and lichens, but the rains setting in regularly in the valleys below had not yet reached this altitude. From about 5,500 feet there was a good view to the gap or depression in the main range some ten or twelve miles east of Mount Victoria, but it did not seem to offer an inviting route by which to cross the mountain chain. The trailing climbing bamboo began between 7,000 and 8,000 feet. Most of the track was difficult to cut. The rains reached us about the 7th September, and attended us daily till we arrived at Doura on the south coast.

On the 8th September all carriers except ten were sent back to the Government station, and, in addition to these ten, three constables were kept. The first ice was seen in the early morning at an altitude of 10,200 feet. At 11,000 feet grass patches began in the cypress forest, and at about the same place several of the party began to suffer from the rarity of the air. At the top of the mountain attention was given to geographical matters, for which a fine 3-inch theodolite was used. Whilst I was so occupied, assisted by Mr. Green, Mr. English was cutting the track towards the Owen Stanley Range.

It was seen that the Owen Stanley Range is connected to Mount Scratchley and the Wharton Range, and through the latter to Mount Albert Edward without any deep intervening depression. The geological formation of the whole of this vast mountain mass is schist and quartz. It was thought the sources of the Angabunga (Mekeo) River had their origin from the west side of Mount Scratchley or the Wharton Chain, but it is now clear that these sources are further west, and begin at the western spurs of Mount Albert Edward. The village of Fofoana, on the left bank of the Ajibara, was the only village seen on the Wharton Chain. Some specimens of natural history were collected, but a collector was established and left on the top of Mount Scratchley.

On the 17th September, the native that was ahead cutting the track reached the top of Winter Height, on the Owen Stanley Range, and found traces of the road cut there in 1889 during the first ascent of Mount Victoria. On the following day we camped on the height, having had an easy road from the first camp on the top of Mount Scratchley to that place. It was decided that a visit should be made for geographical purposes to the top of Mount Victoria, where we arrived with four or five carriers on

the 20th, but found that nothing could be done in the fog and rain that lasted all day, and only the latitude could be taken at night. On the 22nd we travelled from the top of Mount Victoria to Winter Height in nine hours, and next day Mr. Green started back with his party to the Mambare Station. Mr. English and myself, with two constables and six carriers, continued the journey over the top of Mount Knutsford and down the Vanapa River. On the 29th we reached the village of Gosisi, on the Vanapa, the natives of which were much alarmed by our approach from the interior, as they had heard of no party being in that direction. They did not appear to know of any place or people on the other side of the Owen Stanley Range. The men of these tribes were remarkable for their excellent physical proportions and strength. They were timid and suspicious, but supplied us most liberally with food. On the 1st October they carried our effects to the hill above Tobiri, and finally to the Vanapa, at the foot of Mount Kowald. Beyond that point our 1889 track could not be followed, as all trace of it had disappeared. On the 12th September we arrived at the village of Koni, where we were well received. Next day we reached the sea-coast at Galley Reach. Short vocabularies were prepared of the dialects spoken at Neneba and Gosisi.

8. A start was made from Port Moresby on 9th November to visit the east end of the Possession. A passing visit was made to the Rigo Station, where matters were found progressing very satisfactorily. All was quiet in the neighbourhood of Suau, and also about Cape Vogel. On the 15th November we began the ascent of the Musa River with the steam launch and two whale-boats, but the former speedily became unserviceable. The river was flooded and difficult. The natives of Yasia, the first inhabited village, were timid but friendly. From that point it is possible to travel by native paths along the river, but the track is bad until the village of Dove is reached. The natives on the lower part of the river did not care about carrying for us, but the inhabitants of the upper villages were ready to do so, being less timid. When we had reached the hills I was obliged to return, owing to a very serious accident to Mr. Kowald, caused by the explosion of a dynamite cartridge he held in his hand. Two miners, McLennan and Simpson, went on to the Moni Valley with the carriers and six constabulary. They did not find any encouraging prospect. Descending the river with Mr. Kowald, we met a strong party of miners going up, several of whom were already sick. On the 7th December Mr. Kowald was placed on board the "Merrie England." On the 9th December we ascended the Mambare River to return Mr. Green to his station. The river had been flooded, and the lower natives had begun to build together at Gadara. A native of the Mambare district was taken back from Port Moresby by Mr. Green as one of his constabulary. This man and all the party received a friendly reception all along the river. There were about a dozen miners

at the station, half of them sick. There were said to be about as many more on the Upper Membare. Those that could not meet the expense of a passage in a private vessel were carried by the steamer to Samarai. Some of these miners did not treat their native boys well or fairly. Towards these latter the natives of the Mambare were decidedly unfriendly. The steamer left Samarai on the 18th December for Cooktown with Mr. Kowald on board. He died soon after in hospital there. Mr. Winter proceeded to Sudest in the steamer, and found the prisoners employed there to be in a satisfactory condition on the 8th January.

9. On the 8th February I left Port Moresby to make a visit of inspection in the western division of the Colony. The Daru Station was in a satisfactory condition, with large quantities of food in the gardens. A good and useful jetty was being built, and a new prison was under construction. A visit was made with a number of the principal men of the district to their hereditary fishing-grounds in the neighbourhood of the Barrier Reef, from whom it was learned that a line from Bramble Cay through the Moon Pass and thence to the south of Turn-Again and Deliverance Islands would secure their fishing rights and facilitate the work of administration in the west. No readjustment of boundary has yet been made between the two Colonies. On the 1st March we reached the Morehead River, intending to try to induce the natives there to resettle and rebuild their villages. We were accompanied by natives of Mawatta and of the Wassi Kussa, to make these acquainted with the Morehead people. The natives were friendly, but living scattered in the woods. They were favourably disposed to rebuild, and were anxious to receive a mission among them. Fifty-four natives of British New Guinea were then living at Boigu. It was arranged that they should return to their own country and rebuild in June. On the return journey I heard at Boigu of the murder of Mr. Green and others on the Mambare, news which was confirmed by the Hon. John Douglas, C.M.G., who arrived at Daru on the 11th March. It became necessary to travel from Daru to Port Moresby in the steam launch, in order to reach the Mambare as soon as possible. On the way a call was made at Saguana. There the Rev. James Chalmers was found to be successfully carrying on an English mission and school. The tribes visited, or rather passed, near the mouths of the Aird River were friendly. We reached Port Moresby with the steam launch on the 22nd March.

10. A start was made from Samarai, 10th April, to visit the Mambare district. Mr. Moreton had gone thither soon after the murders committed there by the natives, but he wisely abstained from undertaking any active operations against the tribes of the locality with the small force at his command. Some natives that were loitering about the coast, near the mouth of the Mambare, did not decline to enter into communication with us.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1896-97.

The natives on the lower part of the river fled on our approach. The large village of Peu was deserted. The inhabitants of Manatu were the only ones that remained to receive us. These had always been friendly. At some of the Umi villages a number of articles taken from Europeans were found. The buildings in course of erection at the new station had not been injured, and the natives had begun to construct new houses for themselves higher up the river, from which they fled before we reached them. At some of these considerable quantities of ammunition were found. The whole district in the vicinity of the Government station was scoured by the constabulary, but the natives avoided any encounter with them, and soon abandoned that part of the country. One warrior of the Apochi tribe was captured, and another was shot dead in a skirmish with the natives of Peu in the thick scrub near the river bank. In a similar encounter with the Gadara tribe three men were arrested and one shot. None of the tribes ventured to make any show of open aggression or to threaten any attack on the constabulary. On the 1st May an attempt was made to surprise the village of Peu. There were about half-a-score of people there, but they escaped by abandoning their baggage. The whole country was again patrolled by the constabulary in several directions, and the formation of a new station at a better site was begun on the Tamata River. As it was most desirable to obtain a traverse of the Gira (boundary river), as far as it is navigable by boat, its ascent was begun on the 18th May. It is quite clear that the river opens into the sea in German territory, and speedily crosses the boundary line into British jurisdiction, but to again project a small loop on to or over the boundary, after which its course leads away to the south-west, like all other large rivers on the north-east coast.

There were undoubtedly many men from the hostile villages of the Mambare then seeking shelter on the Gira. The natives were timid, but not unfriendly. None were allowed to carry weapons, and they were not permitted free entrance to our camp. There is a good deal of fine planting land on this river, with many pleasant sites for building, and it has a comparatively large population. On the 6th June, the constabulary were led across the country from Apochi village towards the upper villages of the Gira. The country traversed between that and the village of Wade is not inviting in any sense. The villages of Wade and Diware contained, in addition to their own people, most of the fighting men of the hostile Mambare tribes. In an encounter with the constabulary two of their warriors were killed, and these tribes were cut off from those between Wade and the sea. A few days later they were forced to fight again, when four of their braves fell, and the others fled for their lives. It was not deemed necessary to inflict on them then any further loss of life, but it was decided to wait to see what change would take place with time.

11. A brief visit was made to the Kiriwina Group, on account of certain disturbances reported to have occurred there. Very satisfactory progress had been made by the Rev. Mr. Fellowes in mission work. The Resident Magistrate had experienced much trouble in putting an end to village burial. The traders had ceased to put obstacles in the way of mission work, and some of them had even rendered substantial assistance to Mr. Fellowes. Some tribal disputes were dealt with, and the surrender of some of the principals concerned was enforced. But what was, perhaps, of much greater importance, was that the great chief, Enamakala, was made to grant land for a mission site at his own village—a concession he had hitherto refused to make.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS.

12. The Resident Magistrate for the Western Division reports that a fair advance was made by the natives in many ways, but in this he does not include house-building. Fortunately, the Burial Regulation has been well observed. Wabuda, which formerly gave us so much trouble, is now the most progressive tribe of the district. The Resident Magistrate has travelled a great deal in his division, visiting a number of villages that are unknown to me. At one of these, Baranoura, he saw the longest house we have yet met with in the Colony. It was 827 feet long and 40 feet wide. The natives were found to be friendly everywhere, and to be well disposed towards law and order. It is now well known that there are wide areas of rolling grassy lands, much of it fit for cultivation, between the sea and the Fly River. The majority of the offences dealt with under the Native Regulations was on account of adultery. Violation of women and children is still very frequent. A remarkable case is mentioned, in which a native was relieving his grief by the usual expedient of discharging arrows; one of these passed through a native house and then through the body of a man—a good example of the tremendous force with which the bamboo bow shoots its missiles. The constabulary have rendered excellent service during the year. There are now thirty-six village policemen in the division. In addition to much cultivation of food for the use of the station, two large undertakings were on hand—the construction of a much-needed jetty and the building of a new gaol. The Resident Magistrate speaks favourably of the progress made by the Rev. James Chalmers at Saguana, where great advantages to the natives will arise from their being taught in English. The health of the station and district was satisfactory. There is no doubt that the Resident Magistrate succeeded during the year in extending the influence and authority of the Government in a way that is very creditable to him.

13. The Resident Magistrate of the Eastern Division reports steady improvement on the part of the natives, which would,

however, be greater but for the evil done by coloured traders and loafers. An epidemic of dysentery caused many deaths at certain places. He enforced the Burial Regulations, but in some instances not without considerable perseverance. It appears that certain employers of native labourers did not treat them so well as they should have done. There are twenty-seven village constables in the district, but some are not efficient, not receiving sufficient supervision. A wharf, which has 19 feet of water at low tide, has been built by Messrs. Burns, Philp, and Co., at Samarai. The Government ketch "Siai" is sailed by an exclusively native crew. In the rubber industry competition runs so high that the profits of the trader are said to be narrow, but it is to be presumed that the native has advantage from that. Mission work, carried on by the three Protestant missions, has progressed quietly and steadily during the year. The Rev. Copland King put through the Press the Gospel of St. Luke, written in the language of Bartle Bay. A great deal of work was performed by the Magistrate on the coast line, which is not touched on in his report.

14. The Resident Magistrate for the Central Division considers the condition of the coast tribes east of Port Moresby to be most satisfactory, but there are still inland tribes near the foot of the main range not yet under control, though the influence of the village policemen of the coast tribes is steadily extending itself in that direction. Visits were made to the sandal-wood camps, the native labourers at which were all well cared for. In the west the Burial Regulations had to be enforced at Apiope. Three murderers were successfully arrested in the Opau villages, and two were arrested at Womai after some trouble, during which the natives discharged a shower of arrows on the constabulary. Bodies were exhumed to the number of sixty-four, and natives were punished under the Burial Regulation at several villages on the coast. The Magistrate ascended the Biaru as far as Amoamoaku. He had to remain over two months at Port Moresby to attend to sick and distressed miners.

Attention is drawn by him to the reign of terror caused by the Uberi tribe in the Astrolabe district, and the opinion is expressed that the Uberi and Hagari tribes are in touch with each other, and that a large force will be necessary to deal with them. The season was a dry one, and the natives about Port Moresby purchased with money a good deal of European food. A party informed the Magistrate that they had ascended Mount Victoria, and that the track was very easy. This ascent, it may safely be said, is purely imaginary. Such a road, if possible, would be very difficult from the Lower Brown. The epidemic of dysentery, mentioned by the Magistrate of the Eastern Division, also passed along the coast line of the Central Division. It is the first introduction of this form of the disease into the Possession, and was therefore, as might be

expected, of a virulent type. The Rev. Dr. G. W. Lawes is having his students taught the use of the fumigating box, with which they will be able to cure many cases of skin disease. It is reported that Mr. Chester attended most assiduously to any cases of sickness among the prisoners while they were under his care. The ketch "Lokohu" is in charge of a solely native crew.

15. The Resident Magistrate for the South-eastern Division states that serious crime is almost unknown in his district. The most backward part of it is Rossel Island, a natural result of its distance from Nivani. The tribes of Misima, once so savage and troublesome as almost to make one despair of them, are now so completely pacified that only petty breaches of Native Regulations have to be dealt with there. There are sixteen village constables in the division, and, with one exception, their conduct was all that could be desired. On the island station of Nivani, 3,250 cocoanuts have been planted, and some will soon be coming into bearing. The Resident Magistrate has here—as has been done at Daru and at Rigo—effected much saving to the Administration by the cultivation of food at the station. The labours and co-operation of the Rev. A. Fletcher, in the district of Panaietti, are very favourably commented on.

16. The Government Agent for the Rigo district has observed much advance in the way of peace and civilisation, and remarks on the absence of any serious crime. Many new inland tribes were brought into contact with European and Government officers for the first time. The natives showed great kindness to prospectors. He ascribes the spread of authority to some extent to the punishment inflicted on the Kokila tribe. Superstition is the greatest drawback to the civilising influences at work. The Government Agent complains of some trouble caused by the excessive zeal of certain South Sea teachers, while he eulogises the splendid results reached by some others. He visited the Uberi country with his detachment of constabulary to support Mr. Ballantine in dealing with that formerly refractory tribe. They proceeded as far as Baura. A number of new tribes were visited by Mr. Shanahan in some of the more inland parts of the district, so that the extension of the authority of the Government during the year was very considerable. It is stated that the natives are now steadily planting cocoanuts. Important improvements were carried out at the station in road-making and planting. There are over twenty village constables in the district, and they are said to be most useful. The Rigo detachment of armed constabulary consists of five men and a corporal; they give every satisfaction to the Government Agent. The sanitary condition of the station was good, but the natives of the district suffered from an epidemic of dysentery. Mr. English has prepared a vocabulary of the dialect spoken by the tribes immediately behind Aroma.

17. The Government Agent for the Mekeo district states that he found the tribes at first unsettled, the natives thinking that the death of his predecessor meant that they might recommence intertribal warfare. Cemetery burial is being extended. Some agitation was caused in connection with the regulation dealing with carriers for Government. This was occasioned by irregular action taken under the regulation, and doubtless would not have arisen had its provisions been attended to, and some little tact and care been exercised. Sorcery is still the cause of a great deal of trouble among the natives.

The Mekeo constabulary detachment consists of seven men and a corporal. Their behaviour has been satisfactory. Regret is expressed that the missions do not make stronger efforts to teach English.

18. The report of the Commandant shows that a large amount of useful work was performed by the force during the year over the greater part of the Colony. The Commandant was for some time in charge of the Mambare district, which he managed very successfully for some months during the absence of Mr. Green. During that period the turbulent natives of that district were restless, requiring action to be taken by the police on several occasions. The visit of the force to the Hagari district is described. It was, undoubtedly, a hard and difficult journey. The total strength of the force at the end of the year was 108 men, consisting of Papuans, with the exception of one man. Some of them have already served five years. The health of the men was, on the whole, good, and their conduct satisfactory. Substantial and commodious barracks for the force were erected at Port Moresby.

19. The Travelling Government Agent mentions that he visited certain tribes inland from Suabina in Orangerie Bay, where he was well received. Subsequently he visited Mount Scratchley, cutting a road from the McLaughlin Creek to the top of that mountain, and visiting the village of Neneba. He cut a new track of ninety miles from Doura to Sikube, and built along it thirteen camping-sheds. By the end of June he had fixed his camp on the Wharton Range. Mention is made of the vast inland field that is not in the present programme of the missions. Mr. Giulianetti collected two small vocabularies, spoken at Suku and Sikube respectively. He was discontented with the constabulary generally.

20. The greater part of the report of the late head gaoler has reference to the previous year, but is inserted herein because it was not received in time for the annual report of last year. Mention is made of the death of nine prisoners from beriberi, and of the unsatisfactory results by treatment. It will be noticed that Mr. Meredith held the Papuan character in considerable estimation.

Mission Work.

21. The two most notable events of the year in connection with the missions were visits of inspection by the general secretaries of the Wesleyan Mission and London Missionary Society. There is good reason to believe that these visits will have, as a result in each case, the establishment at an early date of an industrial school in connection with the respective missions. These are undertakings to which a full measure of support has been promised by the Government as far as it may be in the power of the Administration to encourage such work by the grant of suitable lands or in any other practical way. The London Missionary Society also contemplate establishing an inland mission, in a district that is eminently suitable for such a development with respect to both locality and population.

At page 3 of the appendices* to this report will be found a despatch* dealing with a visit paid to the schools of the London Missionary Society at Port Moresby. It is noticeable that the Rev. A. Hunte was very successfully conducting the upper school in the English language, a matter that cannot but be of the greatest importance in the near future to the rising generation of that district. The Rev. James Chalmers, on the Fly Estuary, and the Rev. C. W. Abel, at Kwato, also taught wholly or principally in English.

Mining.

22. During the year under review a large number of prospecting miners arrived in the Colony. None of these came to the Western Division.

About 400 men landed at Port Moresby. They travelled thence generally in three or four directions, on the Vanapa track, inland from Port Moresby, by the Rigo Station, and along the Angabunga River. In most instances they carried their own effects and tools, and in a very few days became quite unfit for the road. Unfortunately, most of them seemed unable to make for themselves suitable camping arrangements, and all the officers of the Government concur in stating that many men were thoughtless and careless, ill-provided with food, and in too many cases with no medicines whatever. The result was that after a very short time large numbers became very weak and gave way to fever and dysentery. In the Central Division six died in the temporary hospital at Port Moresby, about as many are known to have died on the tracks in the bush, one on board the "Merrie England," and several in the Cooktown Hospital. Of some 130 men that started inland on the Vanapa track, the majority did not get past the Evelyn Creek, two days inland from Doura. Only two small parties from the South Coast seem to have reached the eastern side of Mount Scratchley, and they consisted

* Not printed.

of, or were conducted by, men already accustomed to travel in the country. Nevertheless, the journey across by the Mount Knutsford track should be an easy one for, say, fifteen days.

The conduct of the old miners—of the men that have been at work for years in the Colony—has been good. They have generally dealt justly and fairly with the natives, and they have been law-abiding. But amongst the men that came to the Central District last year there was, as might have been expected, a margin, probably a small one, of a different complexion. By these some acts of robbery were committed on natives, which greatly interfered with the engagement of carriers for the Vanapa track. These acts of violence were not accompanied by more serious crimes, and they met with universal condemnation on the part of the great majority of the men themselves. The old hands who have worked with the natives for years spoke of these occurrences with one voice in terms of indignation. It was unfortunate that the perpetrators got away from the Possession without being prosecuted.

Several parties proceeded inland from Port Moresby towards the Brown River on prospecting tours, but it does not appear that they got any further than their predecessors in 1878, if they even got as far. They met with few natives. The relations between the prospectors and them were good, except in the case of Mr. Rochfort, who was attacked by the aggressive tribe of Bauro, who drove his small party back from Ginianumu after spearing a South Sea man.

23. Several parties went inland from the Rigo district. They were able to obtain local carriers, and they were very well received by the different tribes. Some of them took horses to within two days' march of the top of Mount Obree. Another well-led party, under Mr. W. E. Buchanan, prospected some new districts near Mount Nesbit.

Some three or four different parties proceeded inland from the coast, along the Angabunga River towards the interior, but the Government Agent of that district could not say with what result.

24. All that it was possible to do for the prospectors in the Central Division was done, not only by the officers of the Government but also by the private residents of that part of the Colony. Two officers, provided with armed constables and a large force of carriers, were occupied on the Vanapa path for some five or six months. It is, however, the case that the results, owing to an unfortunate departure from instructions, were not nearly as good as had been expected. The track was made perfectly safe as far as Mount Knutsford, beyond which there are no natives before reaching the Mambare. It was well provided with camping-sheds as far as Suku, and a private firm furnished a store for the sale of supplies at reasonable prices on this track. A Government Agent was equipped for occupying a station on

the top of the main range, whence he could visit places on either side of it within a wide area, and exercise a controlling influence on native tribes.

Several special expeditions were sent directly inland from Port Moresby to try to pacify that part of the country, so that it could be visited by the prospector, but the process of pacification was by no means completed in that region within the year.

In the Rigo district the Government Agent opened a path to the top of Mount Obree, passable for horses as far as the mountain itself. A special agent was also employed by the Government to visit a considerable number of new tribes in the inland districts there with the view of facilitating prospecting operations. It had been intended to employ this special agent in opening a track to the interior from Cloudy Bay, but that part of my instructions was not carried out during an absence on the Mambare. It need hardly be said that officers did anything they could to assist the practical work of the prospector in any direction possible. No sufficiently favourable results seem, however, to have been obtained on the south side of the main range, no "field" was discovered, and no workings even of a temporary character were established there.

25. Steps were promptly taken for the relief of indigent men and for the care of those who were sick. Funds were provided by general subscription for the opening and maintenance of a temporary hospital. For this a competent and trustworthy caretaker was engaged, and the whole establishment was managed by a local committee, on the principle that any person in want should receive gratuitous care and treatment, whilst those should pay that could do so. But, in addition to the contributions made in money, the institution while in operation received constant gifts from the ladies resident at Port Moresby.

Twenty-two patients were admitted for treatment, about half of them suffering from malarial fever. Of the six deaths that occurred, however, only one is entered against that disease by the medical officer, while three are put down to dysentery. A considerable number of men had free passages back to Australia by the S.S. "Merrie England," and many were transported by Government vessels along the coast. Those that were not sick, but who declared their means to be exhausted, received supplies from the Government store, although it appears that in some cases the rations so given did not quite come up to the somewhat high standard expected in certain instances. Dr. Blayney was detained at Port Moresby some two or three months to attend to the sick. Amongst the European residents of the place the earnest and sincere desire to assist in this work was universal, and the same feelings moved many men among the miners themselves; but not a few instances occurred in which men would assist neither themselves nor their mates,

26. In the South-eastern Division mining was carried on at Sudest Island, at Misima, and at Woodlark Island. Alluvial mining on Sudest has now assumed small proportions. The ten-head stamp battery in course of erection there was not in operation during the year. The prisoners employed, chiefly in road-making, by the company, had to be removed before the end of the year on account of an epidemic of beriberi. Not more than twelve or fifteen European miners worked on Misima. During the early months of 1897 the mining population of Woodlark Island increased to some 400 men, a number twice as great as the place could support. Some of the men lived comfortably in native huts they built for themselves, but many were too careless to do that, and lived in squalor under canvas. The season was wet, and there was much sickness among the men. Many did remarkable well, while others were very much disappointed. It was easy to obtain provisions on the field at a reasonable rate. There was no trouble between the miners and the natives. At the end of the year there remained about 250 men on this field.

27. In the Upper Mambare district nothing new was discovered, and the old ground became worked out. On this field three men remained during the whole of the wet season, and a brief record of events by one of them, John Schmitt, will be found as an enclosure to Appendix H hereto.* They were greatly indebted to the natives of Neneba for food and shelter. It appears that it rained almost every day. At the Government station on the Mambare a number of men suffered from fever and dysentery, and several died. They were supplied in many cases with medicine, food, and attendance by the Government. Most of the miners that ascended the Mambare River were assisted by Government boats and by the steam launch.

A prospecting party, accompanied by a detachment of armed constabulary and a number of Government carriers, led by Mr. W. Simpson, did some prospecting work in the Moni Valley. His account of this journey will be found as enclosure No. 1 to Appendix D hereto,* from which it will be seen that they found traces of gold at many places, and that they had no misunderstanding with the natives. A second party, unassisted by Government, did not appear to get as far as Mr. Simpson.

28. On the whole, the mining results of the year were disappointing. No deposits were found that, of themselves, would justify any considerable expenditure in road-making. Undoubtedly, much privation and suffering were endured by many of the prospectors; but it were idle to suppose that a tropical country, full of rugged mountains, scored in all directions by rivers and streams, and covered by dense forest, could be examined without fatigue and without incurring risk and danger. No person that is unable or unprepared to undergo hardship is or can be in his proper place in entering on a prospecting tour in

* Not printed.

this Colony. Experience has also shown that the prospectors are not always inclined to utilise the paths already cut for them. In too many instances they have thoughtlessly, and on the strength of misleading experience obtained elsewhere, started courageously on a journey inland in spite of all advice to the contrary, and have, with no food at all, or with articles of diet unsuitable for their condition, and without any medicines, speedily succumbed to sickness that with reasonable care and forethought could have been prevented. Probably no new country ever has or ever will be opened up without such sacrifices of human life. The officers of the Administration and the permanent residents of the Possession have done all they could to make these lamentable losses as light as possible. The prospecting of the Colony is still in its early infancy, and is not likely to be completed for many a long year yet.

29. The Treasurer has prepared the following

RETURN of MINERS' RIGHTS issued in the POSSESSION during the period 1st JULY 1896 to 30th JUNE 1897.

Year.	Central Division.	Eastern Division.	Louisiades Division.
1896.			
July	—	7	4
August ...	—	11	—
September ...	5	3	65
October ...	—	—	9
November ...	4	13	46
December ...	5	—	6
1897.			
January ...	5	10	37
February ...	14	8	3
March	11	—	42
April	41	7	2
May	8	7	6
June	10	—	—
Total ...	103	66	220

389 Miners' Rights = £149 10*s*.

TRADE.

The usual details of imports, exports, navigation, and postal matters are given in the appendices* to this report.

IMPORTS.

30. The total imports through the three ports of entry of the Colony have been :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888-89 ...	6,016	5,019	—	11,108
1889-90 ...	6,798	9,305	—	16,104
1890-91 ...	7,455	8,075	—	15,530
1891-92 ...	10,379	13,377	—	23,755
1892-93 ...	13,173	12,088	—	25,261
1893-94 ...	15,331	11,428	1,741	28,501
1894-95 ...	12,079	14,036	2,253	28,367
1895-96 ...	20,912	12,235	1,374	34,521
1896-97 ...	32,813	17,521	1,056	51,392

The chief items imported may be arranged under the following heads :—

—	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	£	£	£	£	£
Food-stuffs	5,400	7,124	4,463	6,037	6,252
Drapery and clothing	1,735	1,582	1,712	2,838	3,414
Tobacco and cigars ...	996	1,290	2,354	3,257	2,407
Hardware	927	1,123	1,535	2,677	2,828
Beverages	805	1,143	688	890	1,625
Building materials ...	246	1,086	1,224	1,965	1,474
Other articles ...	999	2,756	3,554	6,091	7,261
Total ... £	11,108	16,104	15,530	23,755	25,261

* Not printed.

—	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	
	£	£	£	£	
Food-stuffs	7,181	8,062	9,328	20,752	
Drapery and clothing	3,002	2,901	3,149	5,758	
Tobacco and cigars ...	3,985	3,059	2,735	4,648	
Hardware	3,162	3,440	4,844	7,718	
Beverages	1,760	1,116	1,755	2,378	
Building materials ...	2,889	1,727	1,916	1,890	
Other articles ...	6,522	7,997	10,794	8,248	
Total ... £	28,501	28,302	34,521	51,392	

The increase in imports over the preceding year was thus £16,871. The advance on food-stuffs was £11,424 ; on drapery, £4,648 ; on tobacco and cigars, £1,913 ; on hardware, £2,874 ; on beverages, £623. There was a decrease on building materials of £26, and on other articles of £2,546. The increase under several of these headings was no doubt partly due to a greater influx of Europeans. This is shown clearly, for example, in the item of beverages, a class of article not used by the native part of the population.

EXPORTS.

31. The total value of exports, as entered at the Custom House, has been :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888–89 ...	5,071	871	—	5,943
1889–90 ...	5,458	997	—	6,455
1890–91 ...	7,678	755	—	8,434
1891–92 ...	8,099	3,190	—	11,289
1892–93 ...	6,290	8,675	—	14,966
1893–94 ...	9,575	3,542	1,854	14,952
1894–95 ...	8,399	5,059	2,757	16,215
1895–96 ...	10,600	8,326	475	19,401
1896–97 ...	39,349	4,658	338	44,345

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1896-97

The advance in the value of exports over the preceding year was £24,944. The largest item of export was gold; but the amount of this article as entered at the Custom House is doubtless very much less than what was actually taken away. There can be no doubt that at least twice the amount of gold declared was obtained in the Possession during the year. The figures here given are those declared at the Custom House, Cooktown, and do not include gold taken to Sydney and other places direct from the fields. The increase shown by the actual figures is an advance of £20,283 on the previous year. In computing the value of the gold exported, it has been reckoned at £3 10*s.* an ounce, which must be somewhat under its real value. The annual export of gold declared at the Customs has been :—

—	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Ounces	3,850	3,470	2,426	1,235	582
Value ... £	14,387	12,440	8,371	4,322	2,236

—	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	
Ounces	1,128	728	1,373	7,148	
Value ... £	3,903	2,535	4,735	25,018	

The second export in point of value was pearl-shell. The quantity of this article exported annually has been :—

—	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Tons	15¾	12¼	3	18	37
Value ... £	1,510	1,050	85	542	1,623

—	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	
Tons	52	51	41	147½	
Value ... £	3,366	3,005	2,371	6,004	

Nearly the whole of this was obtained in the eastern waters of the Possession. From the western districts only a ton and a-half was got, almost the whole of the fishing-grounds there being still in the hands of Queensland. It is an industry that will doubtless be carried on successfully in the eastern waters.

The copra exported consisted of 440¼ tons, valued at £3,494. The export of this article has been :—

					£
1888 89	...	76	tons valued at	...	550
1889-90	...	43	„ „	...	250
1890-91	...	198	„ „	...	1,433
1891-92	...	340	„ „	...	2,084
1892-93	...	194	„ „	...	1,159
1893-94	...	450	„ „	...	2,885
1894-95	...	427	„ „	...	2,830
1895-96	...	381	„ „	...	2,748
1896-97	...	440	„ „	...	3,494

Next to copra comes india-rubber. This article figured first as an export in 1894-95, when some 2 cwt. of it, valued at £27, left the Colony. In 1895-96 the quantity entered outwards was nearly 3 tons ; this year it amounts to 16 tons, valued at £3,472. Taking into consideration the fact that this product is obtained from several indigenous trees and plants, that it exists over a great area, and that there is in the Colony a large extent of country that would appear to be eminently suitable for the cultivation of rubber-trees, it seems very probable that this may eventually become the principal export from the Possession.

There was a falling off of £1,712 in the declared value of sandal wood. Transactions in this industry have been as under :—

					£
1891-92	...	42	tons valued at	...	290
1892-93	...	899	„ „	...	7,183
1893-94	...	321	„ „	...	1,896
1894-95	...	378	„ „	...	2,568
1895-96	...	525	„ „	...	4,035
1896-97	...	300	„ „	...	2,323

It would appear that the decrease in sandal wood is more owing to the superior attractions of prospecting for gold than to exhaustion of the sandal wood forest. If so, there may be a revival in this industry next year.

The export of bêche-de-mer continues to show on the whole a downward tendency. Its course has been as under :—

—	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Tons	38½	70¼	64¼	49	21¾
Value ... £	2,178	4,682	5,030	3,401	1,573

—	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	
Tons	28	21¼	17½	13	
Value ... £	1,714	1,087	929	1,016	

Pearls valued at £980, and turtle-shell declared at £519, were also exported. The remaining items do not call for any special notice.

The total volume of the trade of the Colony has been :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888–89	11,108	5,943	17,051
1889–90	16,104	6,455	22,559
1890–91	15,530	8,434	23,964
1891–92	23,755	11,289	35,044
1892–93	25,261	14,966	40,227
1893–94	28,501	14,952	43,453
1894–95	28,367	16,215	44,582
1895–96	34,521	19,401	53,922
1896–97	51,391	35,654	95,737

SHIPPING.

32. All shipping entered inwards or outwards was British. The total number of vessels (exclusive of Government vessels) entered inwards from beyond the Colony was 85, representing

13,650 tons; the total number cleared outwards for foreign ports was 65, of 15,174 tons. The total foreign tonnage has been :—

1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.
28,824 tons ...	19,759 tons ...	28,824 tons

The entries inwards and outwards coastwise have been :—

	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.
Vessels ...	107	333	595
Tons	5,133	7,845	20,676

The contract for the subsidised mail schooner came to an end during the year, and was discontinued.

Many of the smaller craft at work in the Possession are sailed exclusively by Papuans; others have Papuan crews with a foreigner as master.

Postal.

33. The postal transactions for the year show, when compared with those of previous years, a decided increase. The following is a tabulated statement for the last nine years :—

Article.	1888–89.	1889–90	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Letters received ...	2,366	3,166	2,664	4,393	4,079
Letters despatched ...	2,587	2,586	2,191	3,917	4,011
Packets received ...	93	111	142	45	230
Packets despatched ...	98	84	88	78	427
Newspapers received...	4,071	6,845	6,042	8,505	6,749
Newspapers despatched	574	590	468	756	276

Article.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.
Letters received ...	6,280	6,279	7,130	11,148
Letters despatched ...	5,297	6,189	4,987	11,550
Packets received ...	157	129	246	181
Packets despatched ...	467	468	281	475
Newspapers received...	8,131	7,046	7,197	7,441
Newspapers despatched	240	776	828	1,635

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1896–97.

FINANCE.

Revenue.

34. The amount of revenue collected in the Possession and paid into the Queensland Treasury during the year was £10,663. It is compared below with the revenues of previous years :—

Items.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs dues ...	2,416	2,893	2,525	4,428	3,757
Goldfield receipts ...	187	20	23	24	23
Fees	2	4	4	10	157
Fines	25	41	46	34	24
Licences	2	11	21	136	106
Miscellaneous... ...	42	44	53	149	535
Total ... £	2,679	3,015	2,673	4,783	4,604

Items.	1893–94	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.
	£	£	£	£
Customs dues ...	5,067	4,622	5,974	9,326
Goldfield receipts ...	54	26	78	262
Fees	115	78	21	448
Fines	22	27	37	51
Licences	317	247	293	246
Miscellaneous... ...	291	109	144	320
Total ... £	5,866	5,109	6,547	10,663

Expenditure.

35. The sum of £15,000 was appropriated for ordinary administrative purposes, in addition to a sum of £437 18*s.* 5*d.* for additional Government Agents, and £1,000 for surveys. The two latter amounts were authorised by the Guaranteeing Colonies

to be paid from the Accumulated Revenue Fund. The sum of £16,228 was actually expended for the usual administrative services in the manner indicated in the following table, in which it is classified and compared with the expenditure of previous years :—

Head of Expenditure.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
	£	£	£	£	£
Civil list salaries ...	2,663	3,300	3,290	3,300	3,300
Other salaries ...	1,796	2,381	3,476	3,559	3,707
Vessels and boats ...	2,747	2,564	2,938	2,993	1,600
Allowances	1,296	2,548	1,500	1,356	1,748
Buildings and Works	185	1,144	979	780	872
Agriculture	2	137	355	335	146
Mail services ...	445	—	—	—	450
Miscellaneous... ...	1,662	2,898	2,675	2,675	3,174
Total ... £	10,769	14,975	15,000	15,000	15,000

Head of Expenditure.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.
	£	£	£	£
Civil list salaries ...	3,300	3,248	3,186	3,195
Other salaries ...	3,479	3,640	3,779	3,552
Vessels and boats ...	1,308	2,114	1,587	1,258
Allowances	1,454	1,614	1,388	2,061
Buildings and Works	435	397	661	754
Agriculture	203	145	142	94
Mail service	750	900	900	900
Miscellaneous... ...	4,071	2,942	3,357	4,414
Total ... £	15,000	15,000	15,000	16,228

S.S. "MERRIE ENGLAND."

36. The net expenditure on the "Merrie England" during the year ended on 31st March 1897 was £7,313 19*s.* 2*d.* The distance steamed was 16,250 miles on a consumption of 800 tons of coal, making an average distance of 20·31 knots for each ton of coal. The vessel was under steam on 180 days. On launch duty 68 tons of coal were used.

As in previous years since 1895–6, the Imperial Government contributed £3,000 towards the cost of maintaining the steamer, while the Guaranteeing Colonies allowed the sum of £4,000 to be charged to the Accumulated Revenue Fund.

37. The considerations on which expenditure was regulated are given in full in the despatch covering the estimates.* With regard to the sum of £1,228 19*s.* 10*d.* expended in excess of the appropriation of £15,000, it may be observed that the increased expenditure was due partly to the large influx of miners to the Possession which took place in 1897, and partly to the massacres on the Mambare River. The attention of the Guaranteeing Colonies was directed to the fact that certain additional expenditure, estimated at the time to amount to some hundreds of pounds, would be necessary, and their consent was obtained to the increase being made a charge against the Accumulated Revenue Fund.

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS.

38. An elaborate report* by Mr. De Vis will be found as an Appendix hereto, in which that gentleman gives a careful description of the many new and interesting birds added to the official collection of the Possession since the date of his previous paper on the same subject. Mr. De Vis is well entitled to the thanks of the Colony for so promptly giving to these matters so much labour, especially at a time when he is otherwise already overworked.

39. A report* is attached by Mr. J. B. Cameron, Government Surveyor, on lands surveyed by him for alienation to Europeans. It has been intended to dispose of this land on favourable terms, more with the object of introducing systematic cultivation of tropical products under European supervision than for any other purposes. Most of the 31,000 acres surveyed has been obtained by the Crown from the native owners by direct purchase.

* Not printed.

Mr. Cameron's report covers a few months not included within the year dealt with by this Annual Report, but circumstances make it convenient and desirable to publish it as it has been presented.

40. Mr. W. E. Buchanan has kindly furnished a report* on the results of the expedition led by him to the foot of the Main Range to the north-west of Mount Nesbit. Unfortunately Mr. Buchanan's instruments got damaged, so that the exact locality reached by him cannot be put on the map. He describes it as a large valley, in the deposits of which are traces of gold; but Mr. Buchanan, though an able leader and a skilful and persevering prospector, does not appear to have found payable gold.

METEOROLOGICAL.

41. The Rev. Copland King has furnished the table* of rainfall at Dogura Station for the year ending 31st December 1896. It shows a fall of only 43½ inches, though rain fell on 115 days. The figures would indicate that the dry season is from May to September, inclusive; while the three wettest months are January, February, and March. The rainfall of the same place from 1st February 1892 to 31st January 1893 was 80 inches, which gives an average for the two years of 61·75 inches.

At Port Moresby the rainfall for the year ending 30th June 1897 was 38·97 inches. No rain fell in December 1896, nor in June 1897. In January, February, March, and April, the rain registered measured 32·31 inches. The rainfall of the last three years has averaged 37 inches.

A table is attached* compiled from the observations taken at Port Moresby, which shows the average thermometer readings for each month of the year at 9 a.m.; and also the maximum and minimum temperatures for each month registered at the same place. From this it appears that the highest 9 o'clock temperature was that of January, 85·85 degrees Fah. The lowest was, for August, at 76·61 degrees; the average for the year was 81·92 degrees.

The highest monthly registration by the maximum thermometer was, for January, 89·28 degrees; the lowest by the same instrument was, for September, 80·46 degrees. The average maximum monthly temperature was, for the year, 85·44 degrees.

* Not printed.

The highest monthly readings by the minimum thermometer was, for February, 77·33 degrees; the lowest, for August, 72·89 degrees. The average monthly temperature by the minimum thermometer was 75·57 degrees.

The highest temperature registered at Port Moresby in the shade at 9 a.m. was 90 degrees, on the 6th January; the highest registered at any time was 94 degrees, on the 9th February. The lowest obtained was 74 degrees, on the 6th and 22nd August.

At Daru the rainfall for the year ending 30th June 1897 was 61·62 inches. The average for the last three years has been 82·5 inches. The fall in the months of September, October, and November, 1896, was less than 1 inch, while that for January, February, and March, 1897, was 10·74, 12·11, and 13·98 inches respectively. A table* will be found as Enclosure D to Appendix L, showing the highest and lowest thermometer readings for each month in the year, barometrical readings for the same periods, general direction of wind, &c. The highest average temperature was recorded in December (85·75 degrees), the lowest in September (79·76 degrees).

ESTABLISHMENTS.

42. On the 30th of June last the officers on the establishment, in addition to those on the Civil list, were as follows:—

Resident Magistrates:—

Central Division	Dr. J. A. Blayney.
Western Division	B. A. Hely.
Eastern Division	M. H. Moreton.
Louisiades	A. M. Campbell.

Government Agents:—

Rigo	A. E. English.
Mekeo	B. W. Bramell.
North-east Coast	M. W. Shanahan.
Travelling (temporary) ...	A. Giulianetti.
Commandant	Captain A. W. Butterworth.

* Not printed.

ESTABLISHMENTS—*continued.*

Government Storekeeper ...	H. N. Chester.
Treasurer and Collector ...	D. Ballantine.
Sub-Collector, Samarai ...	Alexander Henry Symonds.
Clerk, Samarai (temporary)...	A. McAlpine.
Sub-Collector, Daru... ...	H. W. de Lange.
Head Gaoler and Overseer of Works.	John McDonald.
Government Printer ...	J. G. Allen.
Commander, S.S. "Merrie England."	George A. H. Curtis, R.N.R.
First Engineer, "Merrie England."	F. V. Corkill.

The year was, beyond all precedent, unfortunate as regards the loss of officers.

On the 25th of November 1896, Mr. Charles Kowald, Government Agent for the Mekeo district, met with a most serious accident at a point on the Musa River some three score of miles from the sea. While Mr. Kowald was in the act of demonstrating to a native the use of dynamite, the cartridge exploded in his hand, and inflicted injuries of which Mr. Kowald died shortly after in the Cooktown Hospital. He had been employed by the Government from its first initiation. Though a foreigner by birth and education, he was a loyal officer, a man of unusual energy, resource, and activity. He built and created the Mekeo Station, and brought it to such a condition that the whole district was proud of it. The Mekeo Station was one of the most beautiful homes in this part of the world, and this was almost altogether the work of Mr. Kowald. He succeeded admirably in pacifying his populous and turbulent district, and made very considerable progress in road-making, while he practically put an end to village burial over a large area. He also visited many of the mountain tribes, and he held the balance evenly between rival missions while aiding them all alike. He had already gained a large experience, and been well trained to his duties as Government Agent. Manifestly, the loss of such a man to the service, of which he had made a profession, was very great.

On the 14th January 1897, Mr. John Green, Government Agent for the Mambare district and Assistant Magistrate, was attacked by a combination of the natives of the district and murdered, with four men of the armed constabulary, while three prisoners and a private servant were killed at the same time. Mr. Green and his men were engaged in constructing a new station on the Tamata affluent of the Mambare. They left the

old station in the morning and went to the new one, about which they were employed when attacked, unfortunately without their arms. These constables were all first-rate men, and the Commandant is of opinion that if they had even had knives with which to defend themselves they would probably be alive to-day. The conspiracy had been carefully prepared beforehand, and its execution was doubtless facilitated by the presence at the station of a Tamata man as a constable. Apparently, all the tribes near the station were implicated.

Mr. Green had a natural liking to work connected with native administration, for which he had a decided talent. He had already received a good training, which, added to his superior intelligence and unusual perseverance, promised great things. He had built the Mambare Station; and though located in the most remote and least amenable of the districts, he had made very considerable progress in acquainting the natives with the aims and objects of the Government. He had visited and established friendly relations with many tribes on the north-east coast, and had inspected the Mambare as far as Neneba and the top of the Owen Stanley Range. He was much respected by the prospectors and others that visited the district, interpreting correctly and carrying into effect, with tact and goodwill, the desire of the Government to render to those men every assistance possible. He was the only European that accompanied me the first time the Moni Valley of the Musa was reached, and he accompanied myself also to the top of Mount Victoria, being able to render excellent assistance in preparing geographical work, in which he was becoming an apt pupil. The loss of an officer so endowed and so well trained was a most deplorable one to the service. There was no position in it to which Mr. Green might not have aspired. It was further intensified by being associated with the murder at the same moment of the faithful, intelligent, and well-bred chief of his detachment of constabulary, Corporal Sedu, a native of Turituri, in the Western Division.

Mr. John Meredith head gaoler and overseer of works, died of illness at Sudest Island, where he was stationed on duty in charge of a body of some fifty prisoners at work in connection with a gold mining company opening up some auriferous quartz reefs. Mr. Meredith became head goaler in July 1894. He took a deep personal interest in each prisoner under his charge; and by firm, kind treatment maintained excellent discipline, while by regular work, regular hours, and the use of the English language, he imparted to the prisoners a useful and valuable education. He maintained them in good physical condition, clean skinned, and as contented as men in such circumstances could be.

The Commandant was absent, on leave, from February to the end of June.

GENERAL.

43. The usual assistance so courteously rendered by the Government of Queensland in former years to the Possession was again repeated in the refitting of the "Merrie England," and in other ways.

The year was one of specially hard work to the whole of the Civil Service in the Possession, the zeal and assiduity of which deserve my warmest thanks and acknowledgment.

I have, &c.,

WM. MACGREGOR.

His Excellency
The Right Hon. Lord Lamington, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Queensland.

LONDON:
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1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 258.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897-8.

(For Report for 1896–7, *see* No. 237.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
April, 1899.

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1899.

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BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

No. 1.

Governor LORD LAMINGTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received January 30th, 1899.)

[*Copy sent to Sir Wm. Macgregor 11th March* 1899.]

Government House, Brisbane,
24th December 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward you a copy of Sir William Macgregor's Annual Report from 1st July 1897 to 30th June 1898, also a copy of a letter from the Honourable The Chief Secretary acknowledging its receipt.

It is a matter of peculiar satisfaction to me to transmit on the part of my Government a statement containing so warm a recognition of the success attendant upon the ten years of Sir William Macgregor's administration in British New Guinea, and of the harmonious relations that have prevailed between them and the Lieutenant-Governor.

I have so repeatedly expressed my admiration of Sir William Macgregor's single-mindedness, discretion, zeal and courage, that it is enough for me on this occasion to say that I most fully and heartily endorse the opinions set forth in my Chief Secretary's letter. Yet I may add, that having had an opportunity of visiting the Possession, these views of his government are more than substantiated by the actual results achieved. The gradations of good order and peaceful bearing amongst the tribes as successively brought under authority were most marked.

This civilizing process has been due mainly to the prestige that Sir William Macgregor has established for himself by his love of justice and firmness, and not by drastic or extreme measures.

These remarks apply not merely to the coastal but to tribes living in the interior of a country where the mere fact of travelling is surrounded with the most serious difficulties.

When it is remembered with what small resources and in how short a time this work has been accomplished the task and success of Sir William Macgregor's administration will bear comparison with any kindred undertaking within the Empire.

It only remains for me to record my personal regrets in losing as Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea one who was always anxious that the machinery of a somewhat complex system of Government should run with all possible ease.

I have, &c.,

LAMINGTON.

[Enclosure in No. 1.]

Chief Secretary's Office,
Brisbane,
21st December 1898.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt from Your Excellency of Sir William Macgregor's Annual Report on British New Guinea from 1st July 1897 to 30th June 1898, and to inform Your Excellency that the usual action has been taken with regard to the Report.

As this closes the long series of Reports, annual and occasional, on British New Guinea, furnished to Your Excellency's predecessors and Yourself by Sir William Macgregor, I take the opportunity of expressing on behalf of the Government their great regret that the Possession can no longer enjoy the advantage of his able administration. During the ten years of his government they have observed with appreciative interest the steady progress of an experiment in the education of a barbarous people which they consider unique in the history of civilization, and the success of which has been mainly owing to the rare qualities of mind and character that so admirably fitted him for the position he has filled during that period. To Sir William Macgregor has been assigned the exceptional task of in a large measure creating the institutions it was his function to administer, institutions which could only be established after long and trying labour in the direction of pacification, and the orderly condition of the communities in the large area of the Possession which has been

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brought under the operation of his policy is due not only to his immense faculty of organization, but to the personal courage and indomitable energy which gained for him his extraordinary ascendancy over the native mind.

The Government, moreover, do not fail to recognise how largely the results of Sir William Macgregor's exploring expeditions and scientific investigations have added to the measure of his achievement, and they feel assured that the series of Reports which has now closed will be regarded, especially by anthropologists and sociologists, as among the most valuable contributions which have been added to scientific literature during the period over which they extend.

I desire to reciprocate the sentiments expressed by Sir William Macgregor with regard to the harmonious relations which have existed between himself and the Government of this Colony, and will only add that, if this Government have been able to discharge to the satisfaction of the Imperial Government and the other Contributing Colonies the obligation undertaken by Queensland with respect to British New Guinea, it has been largely owing to the fact that they were in co-operation with an Administrator whose single aim was to promote the welfare and prosperity of the Possession for whose good government they had made themselves responsible.

I have, &c.,

JAMES R. DICKSON.

No. 2.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to Governor LORD LAMINGTON.

[*Copy sent to Sir William Macgregor, 11th March* 1899.]

Downing Street,
8th March 1899.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 24th of December forwarding copies of the Annual Report on British New Guinea for 1897–8, together with copy of

a letter from your Prime Minister, in which he bears eloquent testimony to the valuable services rendered by Sir Wm. Macgregor during his ten years' service in the administration of that Possession.

2. I fully and cordially endorse what is said by Mr. Dickson and yourself in appreciation of Sir William Macgregor's work, and of the rare combination of qualities he has displayed in its discharge.

3. The constant support and ready assistance which he has at all times met with at the hands of those responsible for the government of Queensland has done much to facilitate his task, and I have pleasure in placing on record my high appreciation of the manner in which the Government of the Colony has throughout performed the duties of control assigned to it by the Agreement of 1887.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

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No. 258.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR WILLIAM MACGREGOR to GOVERNOR LORD LAMINGTON.

Brisbane,

27th October 1898.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit the Tenth Annual Report on British New Guinea, as required by Section XXXVI. of the Royal Instructions of 8th June, 1888. The different tables, the accounts of Revenue and Expenditure, refer to the year ending on the 30th June last. The Reports on administrative visits of inspection are continued up to the time at which I left the Possession.

LEGISLATION.

1. ORDINANCE NO. VI. of 1897 was passed to regulate the collecting of wild birds. In 1894 it had become apparent that it was necessary to legislate for the protection of certain rare birds confined to limited localities, and also to forbid the shooting of all birds, save only birds of prey, at certain places. These powers were conferred on the Executive by Ordinance No. II. of 1894. Under the provisions of this enactment, birds were protected on the islands of Daru and Samarai, and in the vicinity of Port Moresby. Two species of rare birds of the Paradise family, found only in the D'Entrecasteaux group in one case, and in that and the Kiriwina Islands in the other case, were absolutely prohibited to the collector, there being plenty of examples already in museums for all scientific purposes. Two other species of birds, of the Gallinaceous family, that were being killed out, and whose eggs are valuable as food, were also protected within ten miles of the sea.

In 1897 it was felt that some further restriction should be put on the bird collector. It is impossible to regard this occupation as an industry worthy of encouragement. Formerly the collector had to incur danger where now he is perfectly safe. He had, some years ago, to cut his own track, to find his own way, and it

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897-8.

was difficult to obtain native assistants. Now he generally follows up tracks cut by Government; he can employ native assistants almost anywhere; and can thus shoot down the birds of a district in a short time. Ordinance No. VI. of 1897 imposes on the collector a license of £5, and a license of £1 for each shooting assistant. It does not appear that this license has any effect in diminishing the number of collectors. It will soon be necessary to proceed a step further and to limit the number of birds of certain species that any collector may kill under his license, for it would be a great mistake to suppose that birds of Paradise are plentiful in the Possession. Only two species are common; some are confined to certain altitudes, others to a few small isolated spots that lie far apart. It would be easy to reduce some kinds to practical extermination, a matter that should not be left till it is too late. It may be, however, that when other forms of employment are provided the number of collectors may be less.

2. ORDINANCE No. VII. of 1897 appropriates the sums required for the ordinary administrative services for the year ending with the 30th June, 1898, and for the s.s. "Merrie England" for the year ending with the 31st March, 1898.

3. ORDINANCE No. VIII. of 1897 amends the "Native Labour Ordinance of 1892" in certain particulars.

The first legislation affecting the employment of native labourers was Ordinance No. III. of 1888. This was passed in compliance with the command contained in Section XIII. of the Letters Patent of 8th June, 1888. This directs that a law be established providing "That no deportation of natives be allowed either from one part of the Possession to another, or to any place beyond the Possession." It was thought in 1892 that the time had then come when this stringent measure could with advantage to the native and to those wishing to employ him be relaxed. Ordinance No. II. of 1892 accordingly allowed natives to be employed by oral agreements for periods not exceeding one month at a distance not more than twenty-five miles from the usual place of residence of the native. Engagements before a magistrate were permitted for any term not exceeding one year. There was no further restriction of the native to his own district. The native could also be engaged to work in Torres Straits, and could be taken to Cooktown or Thursday Island; and, for educational purposes, a native could be removed by any one of the mission bodies to any island north of the 10th degree of S. latitude. Ordinance No. III. of 1893 provided that a native might be imprisoned for not entering on a service he had agreed to, or for deserting.

ORDINANCE No. II. of 1897 further modified the law as to the engagement of labourers, allowing natives to be engaged before any person qualified to deal with labour contracts. Under this

it became possible to engage any native of the south coast of the colony before any magistrate or qualified officer in that district. The same law also rendered it compulsory on a native to perform the work for which he may be duly engaged.

ORDINANCE No. VIII. of 1897 provides that a deserting labourer may be returned to his employer, and renders it a punishable offence to induce a native to desert.

ORDINANCE No. II. of 1898 permits natives to proceed, under a bond by the employer, if the latter has a *bonâ fide* residence or place of business in the Possession, to any Australian port, and to certain other places. Natives could also accompany any missionary for literary purposes to any part of Australia. This Ordinance has now been assented to by Her Majesty. It will thus be seen that the labour laws of the Possession have been developed gradually, suitably to the evolution of the colony and the control established over natives. The engagement of natives as labourers is therefore now sufficiently free, but it may soon be desirable to extend the term for which a native may be engaged to more than twelve months. This is becoming specially necessary for youths that may become engaged as apprentices to carpenters and others. An opportunity for doing this will present itself when the codification of the labour laws, already directed by the Secretary of State, is effected.

4. ORDINANCE No. IX. of 1897 extends generally to native servants employed by the Crown provisions analogous to those applicable to native servants in the employment of private employers.

5. ORDINANCE No. X. of 1897 repeals "The Arms Licenses Ordinance of 1897." This latter measure imposed a license on firearms, a tax which, theoretically, was thoroughly justifiable in a country where much game is killed without there being any game license. It was, however, obnoxious to people unaccustomed to such an impost in Queensland. It was deemed inadvisable to maintain an enactment that was clearly unpopular to a large degree, and that, too, without producing any very considerable advantage to the Treasury.

6. ORDINANCE No. I. of 1898 was passed "to enable certain persons to acquire and occupy Crown lands not exceeding in the aggregate two hundred and fifty thousand acres in area, and for other purposes subsidiary thereto."

Exception has been taken to this measure by the Prime Ministers of three of the contributing colonies—viz., Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria. These are fully set forth in the papers attached hereto*, and have been considered in my Despatch of 1898, included in the same correspondence. To the original Ordinance certain amendments have to be made by direction of the Secretary of State. But these amendments

* Not reprinted here.

have not yet been made, and Her Majesty's pleasure with regard to the Ordinance has not at this date been intimated to the Administrator.

7. On the 7th July 1897 the Foreign Enlistment Act was brought into validity in the Possession by Proclamation; and by a further Proclamation certain rules were brought into force affecting ships of war of Spain and of the United States of America, when belligerents.

By a Proclamation issued on the 6th July, 1898, an absolute prohibition was, in consequence of the further spread of the "tick disease" in Queensland, imposed on the importation of cattle, horses, asses, mules, sheep, goats, poultry, and other animals from that colony into British New Guinea.

On the 5th July, 1898, a gold field was declared in the Mambare district under the Gold Fields Act. At the same time a warden's court was established for this field, known as the Gira Gold Field. By a Proclamation issued on the 25th day of July, 1898, the Murua Gold Field is declared to be a new gold field within the meaning of "The Gold Fields Act Amendment Act of 1878" (Queensland adopted) till the 6th November, 1903. The purport of this is that till that date the Murua Gold Field will not be open to Asiatics.

8. Two Regulations were passed by the Native Regulation Board. No. II. of 1897 makes pandering "a forbidden act," and punishable. This Regulation was very necessary in certain parts of the colony, where it was quite customary for parents to wrong their children in this way. Other relatives also made a traffic in this. It seems that the Regulation has already been useful in dealing with this matter.

REGULATION No. III. of 1897, having reference to schools, was passed after long and careful consideration. It was referred for observations to each of the four missions in the colony, and was finally passed in a form that corresponded as nearly as possible with their recommendations. It is purely tentative, and of a permissive character. The Regulation is brought into force in any village only after the European magistrate of the district has received the written consent of the European missionary to do so. Missionaries may thus use it or not as they choose. The complaint against the parent for not sending the child to school is to be laid by the teacher. The teacher of the school and the magistrate determine the number of days a week that the children of a village shall attend school. This Regulation is being very gradually brought into force. The threat to act on it seems to be, in many cases, sufficient.

9. During the decade now past, the general tendency of legislation in the Possession has been, in those cases where it was possible to do so, to frame the laws of the colony, as near as

circumstances would permit, on the corresponding laws of Queensland. This seemed desirable, mainly on two grounds: the almost certain close political relationship of British New Guinea to the future Federated Australia, the nearest member of which is Queensland; and the fact that the majority of people that engage in mining and fishing pursuits in the Possession are already conversant with the law of Queensland. In all main particulars the fishing laws of the two colonies are the same on the two sides of the line that separates Queensland from British New Guinea.

The same is true with regard to mining. The Gold Fields Act of Queensland is the fundamental mining law of the Possession. The principal difference between them is that British New Guinea cannot, from the want of funds, offer any pecuniary reward for discoveries of payable gold. It has been sought to meet this, as far as possible, by extending the area of a reward claim. It has been the desire of the Government of the Possession to liberalise the mining laws by increasing facilities to miners and by reducing certain restrictions and limitations. A draft Ordinance prepared for this purpose was submitted for Your Excellency's consideration some time ago; but in the meantime action thereon is suspended until the Mining Bill of Queensland becomes law, in order that the mining law of the Possession may be fashioned as far as possible in conformity with it.

The laws affecting land in the Possession are widely different in certain details from those of Queensland, as the circumstances and geographical position of the two colonies require.

With only two or three exceptions all Ordinances have been drafted by the Government of the Possession. All have been duly submitted to the Governor of Queensland, and, I believe, each draft has been examined by the Law Officers of that colony. Many unimportant verbal alterations have in this way been made in the drafts; but it has been rare to make any changes of principle. Suggestions of great importance, besides careful revision, were made in respect of some of the most important Ordinances by the late Sir Charles Lilley and by Sir Samuel Griffith. No Ordinance has been passed without the sanction of the Governor of Queensland.

The same routine has been followed in the case of the Regulations passed by the Native Regulation Board. These are as brief and as simple in many cases as it is possible to make them.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

10. The tables of cases below, dealt with by the courts of the colony during the year ending the 30th June last, have been compiled by His Honour F. P. Winter, C.M.G.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897–8.

MATTERS DEALT WITH JUDICIALLY DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1898.

CENTRAL COURT.

Criminal Jurisdiction.

Number of Persons Committed for Trial.	District from which Committed.	Persons Committed—how disposed of.
23	Central District	20 tried. 1 committal quashed. 2 discharged.
24	Eastern District	21 tried. 1 discharged. 2 awaiting trial.
7	Western District	6 tried. 1 discharged.
Total ... 54		

The Court held sixteen Criminal Sessions at the places and times, and with the results, undermentioned :—

Number of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	Trobriand Islands—7th July, 1897.		
1	Murder	Guilty of manslaughter.	One year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	Samarai—30th September, 1897.		
2	1 larceny, 1 assault	1 guilty of larceny, 1 guilty of assault.	1 one year's, 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Samarai—12th and 13th October, 1897.		
2	1 murder, 1 larceny	1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of larceny.	1 fined £5, 1 two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Criminal Sessions—*continued.*

Number of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	Port Moresby—3rd December, 1897.		
4	4 murder	4 guilty of murder	4 death.
	Port Moresby—11th December, 1897.		
3	2 murder, 1 causing grievous bodily harm.	2 not guilty, 1 guilty of causing grievous bodily harm.	1 five years' penal servitude.
	Mekeo—17th December, 1897.		
3	3 murder	2 not guilty, 1 discharged.	
	Port Moresby—21st January, 1898.		
3	3 murder	1 guilty, 2 not guilty	1 death.
	Rigo—1st February, 1898.		
6	6 larceny	6 guilty	6 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—10th February, 1898.		
1	1 murder	1 guilty	1 death.
	Port Moresby—25th February, 1898.		
1	1 arson	1 guilty	1 one years' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—16th March, 1898.		
1	1 conspiring to murder.	1 guilty	1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	Daru—22nd March to 4th April, 1898.		
7	3 murder, 3 indecent assault, 1 wounding.	1 not guilty murder, 2 guilty manslaughter, 3 guilty indecent assault, 1 guilty wounding.	4 two years', 1 eighteen months', and 1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	Samarai—3rd and 4th May, 1898.		
13	7 murder, 2 larceny, 1 assault, 3 desecration of sepulture.	5 guilty, 2 not guilty murder, 1 guilty assault, 2 guilty larceny, 3 guilty desecration of sepulture.	5 death, 1 fined £4, 2 one year's imprisonment with hard labour, 3 four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Criminal Sessions—*continued.*

Number of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	Samarai—27th to 31st May, 1898.		
2	1 murder, 1 assault	1 not guilty, 1 guilty assault.	1 fined £5.
	Wamea Island—16th June, 1898.		
1	1 assault	1 guilty assault ...	1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Hughes Bay—20th June, 1898.		
1	1 wounding... ...	1 guilty	1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
Total 51			

Civil Business.

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings, &c.
—	Nil.

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Indictable Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Inquiry.
Central District	37	19 murder ... ... 1 manslaughter ... 8 sedition ... ... 2 arson ... ... 6 larceny ... ... 1 aiding prisoner to escape.	23 committed. 14 discharged.
Eastern District	42	27 murder ... ... 4 larceny ... ... 4 assault ... ... 2 attempt to murder 3 desecration of sepulture. 2 wounding ...	24 committed. 18 discharged.
Western District	7	2 murder ... ... 5 rape	7 committed.
Total ...	86		

Summary Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central District	67	26 larceny	18 convicted, 8 discharged.
		20 assault	13 convicted, 7 discharged.
		5 breach of Constabulary Ordinance.	4 convicted, 1 discharged.
		9 breach of Labour Ordinance.	6 convicted, 3 discharged.
		6 breach of Prisons Ordinance.	4 convicted, 2 discharged.
		1 breach of Arms and Liquor Ordinance.	1 discharged.
Eastern District	66	22 larceny	21 convicted, 1 discharged.
		9 assault	9 convicted.
		1 breach of Prisons Ordinance.	1 convicted.
		1 drunk and disorderly.	1 convicted.
		1 insulting language	1 discharged.
		1 breach of Merchant Shipping Acts.	1 discharged.
		27 breach of Labour Ordinance.	27 convicted.
		3 breach of Arms and Liquor Ordinance.	3 discharged.
		1 breach of Pearl-shell Ordinance.	1 discharged.
Western District	20	11 assault	9 convicted, 2 discharged.
		1 larceny	1 convicted.
		7 breach of Labour Ordinance.	7 convicted.
		1 illegal trespass ...	1 convicted.
Total ...	153		

Civil Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Action.	Result of Action.
Central District	2	2 debt	2 verdict for plaintiff.
Eastern District	14	14 debt	6 verdict for plaintiff.
			8 settled out of court.
Western District	1	Debt	Verdict for plaintiff.
Total ...	17		

NATIVE MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

Criminal Jurisdiction (Forbidden Acts).

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central)	164	24 assault	23 convicted, 1 discharged.
		54 larceny	50 convicted, 4 discharged.
		23 disobeying magistrates' orders.	23 convicted.
		10 breach of Roads Regulation.	10 convicted.
		4 breach of Carriers Regulation.	4 convicted.
		29 sorcery	19 convicted, 10 discharged.
		5 spreading lying reports.	3 convicted, 2 discharged.
		5 breach of Burials Regulation.	5 convicted.
		3 threatening language.	2 convicted, 1 discharged.
		5 adultery... ...	3 convicted, 2 discharged.
		1 destroying cocoanut trees.	1 convicted.
		1 breach of "Pandering" Regulation.	1 convicted.
No. 3 (Eastern)	30	18 adultery ...	17 convicted, 1 discharged.
		2 spreading lying reports	1 convicted, 1 discharged.
		9 sorcery	9 convicted.
		1 cutting down cocoanut trees.	1 convicted.
No. 1 (Western)	46	25 adultery... ...	23 convicted, 2 discharged.
		14 assault	13 convicted, 1 discharged.
		2 breach of Burials Regulation.	2 convicted.
		2 sorcery	2 convicted.
		1 destroying cocoanut trees.	1 convicted.
		1 insulting language	1 discharged.
		1 theft	1 convicted.
Total ...	240		

Civil Jurisdiction (Civil Claims).

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Claim.	Result of Action.
No. 2 (Central)	4	2 labour performed	2 verdict for plaintiff.
		2 debt	2 verdict for defendant.
No. 3 (Eastern)	—		
No. 1 (Western)	—		
Total ...	4		

Total Number of Criminal Proceedings.

In Central Court	54
In Courts of Petty Sessions (exclusive of the 54 cases sent up to Central Court) ...	185
In Native Magistrates' Courts	240
In all Courts	479

Total Number of Civil Proceedings.

In Central Court	—
In Courts of Petty Sessions	17
In Native Magistrates' Courts	4
In all Courts	21

11. During the year eleven persons, all of them aboriginals were sentenced to undergo capital punishment.

Five men of the village of Dabunare, in November, 1897, attacked and killed two men of the neighbouring village of Wabunare. These villages are situated in the Astrolabe Range, at no great distance from Port Moresby. The inhabitants of these small hill villages seldom go far from home, and are hence rather primitive in their ideas. The murder was committed to avenge the killing many years ago of some Dabunare people by the Wabunare villagers. The old chief of Dabunare had treasured up this wrong, and had persuaded the younger men to join him in exacting retribution for it. The aggressors' village was promptly surrounded by contingents from the nearest coast villages under their village policemen, and all the culprits were arrested and brought up to Port Moresby. The sentences in these cases were commuted to five years' penal servitude.

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Three natives of the village of Radawa, in Goodenough Bay, were convicted of killing a lad from the hill village of Kwamana, which is not far from Radawa. Their excuse was that the boy was caught stealing from their gardens, a very serious offence in the eyes of the natives. A few years ago the people of these two villages were at open enmity with each other, and it is probable that this partly led to the youth being killed. The sentences were commuted to five years' penal servitude.

A man of Basilaki Island was sentenced to death for killing an old woman of the same village. She was a reputed witch. He came to the conclusion that she had by sorcery killed a friend of his, so he destroyed her. There was the same commutation in this case.

A man from Wedau, Bartle Bay, killed a woman of the same place for witchcraft. He believed that she had killed his brother. He was dealt with similarly to the preceding cases.

12. Mr. Winter has, at my request, prepared a memorandum on the administration of justice during the ten years now passed. This will be found of much interest, and is attached hereto as Appendix J.*

From this memorandum it will be seen that during the above period 128 persons out of 195 accused have been convicted of murder.

It is a matter of great and profound satisfaction that not one of these convicts was a European. It will be remembered that by an Order of the Queen in Council, dated 17th May, 1888, there is conferred upon the Supreme Court of the Colony of Queensland an appellate jurisdiction by which the court can deal with any case arising in British New Guinea in which a sentence exceeding three months has been imposed. During the ten years no appeal has been made from the courts of the Possession to the Supreme Court of Queensland. The total exemption of Europeans from this category of criminals supplies the best proof that could be adduced that the general character of the Europeans in the country has been good. It may be doubted that any place of the same area, of like importance as to population, and in nearly the same social conditions, could show a similar record. One thing is clear: none could show a better in this important particular. It is probably in no small degree owing to the fact that Europeans have been in the habit of leaving the punishment of aggression by natives to the Government. It is tolerably certain they would not have done so very long had the Government not fairly well performed its duty in this matter. There have been minor charges, even charges of homicide, against a few Europeans, but, if foreigners are excluded, these have been very surprisingly few. It is a strange fact, and one for sincere congratulation, that the number of

* Not printed.

offences committed by Europeans during the ten years has, in such a remote country, with such a slender staff of officers, and in the face of a great population emerging from an early stage of barbarism, been so few and so unimportant. It is in some measure owing to the steady and honourable conduct of many of the old miners, men that are more or less domesticated in the colony. They have all along been men of a stamp greatly superior to the average old trader, that is speaking generally, for the old traders, especially the foreign element in it, have not been good examples of white men in the presence of a barbarous population. No reproach can be made against the few settlers there are. Their presence and influence have always been advantageous.

13. Due regard being had to the customs of the natives, their innate proneness to commit retaliatory crimes, and the grossness and universality of the superstitions by which they have been weighed down, there is good reason to be satisfied with the quiet way in which they are falling into the use of courts, and begin to understand them. Naturally very great patience is required on the part of a judicial officer in dealing with native cases, more especially until the natives of a given district begin to understand something of the impersonal nature of a court, and learn to see that it seeks out the real and actual culprit and discharges the innocent. The colony has been very fortunate in this respect as regards its judicial officers. In many cases it can be seen that the audience take a keen interest in a case before the court, and that they debate among themselves the points at issue.

Visits of Inspection.

14. A visit of inspection was begun on the 2nd August, which extended from Port Moresby as far as the head of the Wowea Valley in the Owen Stanley Range. The object in view was to impress on certain inland aggressive and powerful tribes the superior force of the Government, and to see whether a track could be found or made over the lowest part of the Owen Stanley Range.

This part of the country had long been well known as far as Sogeri. The London Missionary Society had a station there as early as 1881, and this place had been visited even by Mrs. Lawes, the wife of the Rev. Dr. W. G. Lawes, in 1882.

It had been explored and mapped by Mr. W. E. Armit in 1882. His sketch maps have been rescued from oblivion only after some trouble. They will be found attached hereto,* and cannot fail to be of considerable historical interest.

The late Mr. Andrew Goldie had collected on the stream that bears his name, in 1879 and 1880. Mr. G. E. Morrison had led an expedition into the Goldie district, and had been

* Not reproduced.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897-8.

repulsed after receiving a serious wound. The celebrated German naturalist, Dr. Otto Finsch, had collected there without having any trouble. The Rev. James Chalmers had travelled in the same district. Dr. H. O. Forbes, at a later date, had a collecting camp for nearly half a year at Sogeri; and Dr. Loria had more recently made large collections there.

Many prospectors had examined the Goldie district in 1878, and some of them had reached and crossed the Brown River, which was named after a prospector of that name who was drowned in this stream. Sogeri was also visited by the late Sir Peter Scratchley, and by many others not mentioned here.

Of all travellers that had visited this part of the country the one that seems to have got furthest inland was Mr. George Belford, who has never published any account of what he has done, though he has kept a diary. It is now established that in 1887 he crossed from Sogeri to Eaha on the Naoro (Brown), some half-score of miles further inland than Ginianumu, the furthest point reached a few months later by the expedition sent by the Protectorate Government under the leadership of Dr. Henry O. Forbes to explore the Owen Stanley Range.

15. The tribes it was now sought to reduce to submission had wounded and driven back Mr. Morrison. They had chased the expedition of the Protectorate out of the district and secured large booty, to them immense riches. This made them think themselves invincible. It was quite well known in 1896 that the district was unsafe, when a private party, in which was the experienced traveller Mr. F. A. Rochfort, tried to cross it. It should be mentioned that Mr. Rochfort was not the leader, and that consequently he, not having control, was not responsible for the manner in which this expedition was conducted. They safely reached Ginianumu, the spot from which, as declared by the natives to Mr. Ballantine on 22nd December, 1896, the Protectorate expedition under Dr. Forbes was turned back and routed. There also this private party was stopped, and had, like the Protectorate expedition, to abandon much property; but, less fortunate than the latter, they lost one of their party from a spear wound, which still further emboldened these arrogant tribes. Mr. Ballantine had visited Baura before I went thither, and he had practically reduced the Uberi tribe to peace, but only after some conflict. At Sogeri all the principal men of the district were received by me—the so-called chiefs, the village policemen, and a great many more. Carriers were provided for us, and food was brought to our quarters in profuse abundance.

Next day, accompanied by the great men of the several tribes, we camped near the then residence of the Uberi, who had, however, not yet rebuilt their villages. Their pacification by this visit was made complete, and they furnished food and carriers. Two camps were made between the Uberi and Wamai on the

Brown, each on old village sites, but not a village or new garden was seen between those two places. The country between them is hilly, almost all covered by forest, and a good deal of the soil is rather rich, probably suitable for growing tea and coffee.

As it had been affirmed that the Wamai tribe had recently in conjunction with Baura attacked their neighbours of Uberi, and as they had appeared hostile to Mr. Ballantine's party, they were not regarded by us as friendly. They had abandoned their houses, and were living in "the bush." Their camp was discovered and "rushed." From a prisoner it was ascertained that the Wamai tribe was only afraid, and had not been actively hostile. Peace was established with them the same day, and before next day this had been extended to the neighbouring tribe of Eaha, which lies further up the Naoro. There is a considerable population, and much good forest land on this part of the river. We travelled down the left side of the Brown for half-a-dozen miles till opposite Ginianumu, passing over much rich soil, quite unoccupied. On the Ginianumu hill were several old village sites, but no traces of recent occupation. The Baura villages were occupied only by some of the young warriors of the tribe; the other inhabitants were all in the woods near. They had immense food gardens. The soil of the Baura hills, though the ground is generally steep, seems to be everywhere rich. The Baura men would not face the constabulary, and made it understood that they did not really wish to fight the Government. They made some attempt at conciliation, but nothing satisfactory came of this. The chiefs from the Naoro and Upper Goldie remained with us camped in the Baura villages and eating the food of the Baura people for a week, while detachments of constabulary and natives patrolled the country in every direction; but here, as is so often the case elsewhere, it was not possible to make any arrests of any importance without the assistance of local natives. The district seemed to be a perfectly healthy one. The temperature went down to 60 degrees Fah. at night, and rose to 85 during the day.

On the 19th August we started for Hagari, on one of the spurs of Mount Service, a place we reached on the second day by a circuitous route, the country between it and Baura being practically impassable to carriers. We had to bridge and then to ford the Naoro, and on the second day to cross the Ruguoa branch before we began to ascend the Hagari spur. There were large food gardens there, but no visible natives. Smoke was seen at many points in the deep glens of the Ruguoa and the Wowea, between us and the main range. The natives of these glens remained aloof, and declared it to be their intention to have nothing to do with us. They were not willing to accept even presents. It was learned that Hagari had been visited once by the commandant and the constabulary, after this tribe had made an attack on certain natives of the Vanapa. On that occasion the constabulary did not know where they were, having reached

Hagari under the conduct of guides from the Vanapa. It now appears that one Hagari man was then shot, and another who had been induced to approach to receive a present was made a prisoner and afterwards died in prison.

This unfortunate combination of circumstances had no doubt much to do with the attitude of the Hagari, Ruguoa, and Wowea tribes towards us. Matters were made worse by the fact that none of us, not even our followers from the Naoro, could understand much of what these people said. When they could get a chance they were ready to throw a spear from under cover at any one passing. The Wowea valley was ascended to within three miles of "the Gap" in the Owen Stanley Range. This, the lowest part of the chain, does not exceed 7,000 feet in altitude. From Hagari to the head of the Wowea there is plenty of pasture grass; the paths are good save at a few places where the pick and shovel would be required to open the road for pack animals.

Two parties were left in the district: one was sent up Mount Service to stay for some time behind the Hagari natives, and to collect there. The other was placed at Baura. Later on Mr. Ballantine, accompanied by Mr. Rochfort, visited the district, going to the villages of Eaha on the Naora and Agi on the Upper Wáumi, and up to the south end of "the Gap" in the Owen Stanley Range. They succeeded in pacifying Agi. The Wowea and Ruguoa people would not encounter the constabulary, but were not friendly, and Baura still kept aloof. In June last Peter Lifu was sent to Baura again, as it was then understood that they wished for peace and permission to resettle. He was successful in effecting their resettlement. It only requires a little time and trouble to do the same with the Hagari, Ruguoa, and Wowea people, who feel themselves powerless and isolated. Village police are in training for Wamai, Eaha, Baura, and Agi. The two belonging to Eaha and Uberi speedily arrested one of the Baura men concerned in the spearing of one of Mr. Rochfort's party, and brought the prisoner safely to Port Moresby, thus effecting what the constabulary, being without local knowledge, could not accomplish. It is important that the pacification of these tribes should be completed as soon as possible, in connection with the Brown River road.

16. On the 18th September, a start was made from Port Moresby for the western end of the Owen Stanley Range, to relieve some prospectors hemmed in and practically besieged there by the warlike Goromani tribe. This tour led us finally across the island from Galley Reach to the mouth of the Mambare. By travelling sometimes by water, sometimes overland, the village of Doura was reached on the 19th. Carriers were partly good-conduct prisoners, principally, however, free labourers. There was a detachment of fifteen armed constables. We proceeded by way of Suku, and had to follow up the track taken by a Government expedition earlier in the year, and which had been

used also by the prospectors it was now our object to relieve. This earlier Government expedition was by far the largest and most costly ever sent out, but it departed from its instructions and effected much less than was expected in the way of practical result. At Kone, the only village between Doura and Suku, the party received food and some additional carriers. There is an area of land that could be used for agricultural purposes between Doura and Suku. It is well watered, and the soil is at many places rich. It is all covered by forest. The carriers suffered much from the heat, and from the wet and slippery roads in this part of the country. On the 25th September, the old village of Suku was reached. We were soon joined by the chief and several men of that tribe. Next day the Niaba stream was crossed, and a short halt was made at the deserted village of Amaseba. Between it and the western end of the Owen Stanley Range lay the village of Ilabana, on the Vetapu branch of the Vanapa. There is no other village between Suku and Iritumuni. The first cold night was experienced on the Amaseba Range, at an altitude of 3,500 feet. From the top of that range to Iritumuni the road was extremely bad—would in wet weather be quite impassable. It was not an easy matter to cross the Vetapu, which is here a large river, deep and rapid, and has to be bridged where there are big trees on the banks and suitable rocks in the bed of the stream. If in flood, it could not be crossed. Messengers were sent ahead to Iritumuni to warn the inhabitants of our approach. They prepared a friendly welcome for us. Iritumuni itself was well disposed, and there was no reason to think that this was not also the case as far as regarded Sikube, which was the village nearest to it, at a distance of about two and a-half miles. Food was not plentiful at this place. Here was seen a means of preserving food in pits, somewhat of the nature of the "silo."

17. A report was received at Iritumuni that in a recent attack on the beleaguered prospectors one of their party had been killed. A man asserted he had seen one of them struck by a spear in the stomach at the same moment that he was knocked on the head by a stone club. The aggression, as was found later, was made as described, but the man was not killed. On this it was determined to take the nearest path to the prospectors' camp, and to get there as soon as possible. We accordingly left Iritumuni early next morning, and arrived at the prospectors' camp on the 30th September, on the thirteenth day from Port Moresby. The party we found safe in a good loghouse, but far from water, and surrounded by forest and undergrowth which they could not venture to cut down. No natives were seen as we approached the camp. It was said by the Iritumuni guides that the assailants had retired to prepare for the final grand attack on the prospectors. A large number of the coast carriers were sent back from this camp, as they were already practically useless on account of the cold, though the altitude was only about 9,000 feet. Without any loss of time, and before the Goromani warriors should be

able to obtain much or any information respecting our arrival, a descent was made next morning on their villages. The road was good, and was covered by us in two hours and a-half. The warriors of the tribe were taken somewhat by surprise when the constabulary, with only their rifles and ammunition, rushed down the long grassy ridge on the nearest village. The great war chief of the tribe was killed, with six or eight other fighting men, and the whole population was instantly driven off the Goromani Hill and scattered over the mountain between the prospectors' camp, Iritumuni, and Goromani.

In their houses were found many articles that had been taken from a miner they had murdered in Goromani, or had obtained by robbery from the prospectors. The fighting strength of the tribe was from four to five score men and youths. Their remarkably strong position made their village practicably unassailable by their neighbours. These latter now refused them shelter. They lived on the ordinary forms of native food, but without any cocoanuts. The place of this latter article was taken by a species of pandanus, cultivated and fenced in on the face of the mountains, at altitudes of 3,000 to 4,000 feet. The seeds are smoke-dried and strung on strings. They seem to contain a large quantity of oil. This district consists of deeply excavated glens, the sides of which are covered by grass to an altitude of 4,000 to 6,000 feet. They are steep and narrow. Villages are generally not far below the edge of the forest that covers the tops of the great mountain ranges. At an altitude of about 5,000 feet the temperature in the early morning was as low as 55 degrees Fah. At midday it rose to 84 degrees. At an altitude of 6,500 feet the early morning temperature was 58, the noon temperature 78, degrees. The lesser temperature at the lower camp was probably caused by the damp fog that rose from the river there, and was not present at the upper camp. It seemed a very healthy country, and might be used by Europeans were it not so inaccessible. No doubt many of the products of temperate climates could be grown there.

18. On the 8th October we returned to the prospectors' camp. They went for and successfully obtained carriers from Iritumuni, Karama, and Sikube, which, under the circumstances, was a real triumph. The greater part of the constabulary, with a number of the coast carriers, were sent back to Port Moresby, Mr. Kelly, who was in charge, being directed to visit and reassure Iritumuni, Sikube, and Suku, which was successfully done.

On the 9th we started from the prospectors' camp for the Government Camp on the top of the Wharton Range. The prospectors wished to get to the other side of Mount Scratchley, and it was necessary to carry away the Government party as well. This meant reaching the sea by the Mambare River.

This toilsome transport retained us altogether on these high altitudes for about three weeks, for three camps and parties had

to be shifted across the main range. The carriers suffered dreadfully from cold, not more from the frosted grass in the morning than from the penetrating fog at midday and the chilling rain of the afternoon and evening. Many were ill, nearly all breathless and afflicted by headache. It was a matter of surprise that under the circumstances only one man died. Time was lost through there being no track cut or marked across the Wharton Range and Mount Scratchley. The sergeant, with a detachment of constabulary, was sent to visit Neneba, Fofoana, &c., the inhabitants of which had shown some signs of hostility after the murder of a prospector at Goromani. It was found that a native track from Goromani crosses the Wharton Range and reaches Neneba. A large amount of geographical work was done at the camp on the Wharton Range and on Mount Scratchley, which will be found on the map.

The scarcity of life, animal and vegetable, on the high plateaux at the top of the great range was noticed to be remarkably great as compared with, say, the European Alps. The prospecting party was left on the east side of Mount Scratchley; the Government party was transported to the eastern foot of this mountain and left there. About twelve or fourteen miners were at work in this district on the lowest spurs of Mount Scratchley. Two prospectors, Messrs. Clunas and Elliott, had visited the upper Chirima, and had been well and hospitably received by the natives, but had not found any good "prospect" there. On the other hand, a fair show of gold and hostile natives had been met with in the Yodda Valley, nearly opposite "the Gap." The Tamata station was reached by our exhausted carriers on the 4th November. It had been much improved, additional land cleared and planted. The acting Government Agent had cut a track to the Gira watershed, and he had met with encouraging prospects of gold and osmiridium. With the Government Agent were left at the station ten constabulary and a European assistant, while a detachment of five men were left quartered at the mouth of the Mambare River. In descending the Mambare we saw no natives except at the friendly villages of Yeva and Manatu.

The journey across the island, including the delay in chastising Goromani, and in transporting the additional camps with heavy stores across the top of the main range, occupied fifty-one days. The route followed was determined by the circumstances of the case. It is not one that should be taken voluntarily.

19. As Deputy Administrator, Mr. Winter made an inspection of the Mekoa district in December and January last. He visited twenty-one villages there. The road from Mou to Inawa had become unserviceable through inundations. Most of the roads were being kept in tolerable condition. The hill village of Lapeka was visited. The coffee grown at Bereina was considered a good article. There was not much planting of cocoa-nuts going on. Those planted at the station were growing well. The imported

fruit trees seem to want more attention. About twenty-five acres were under cultivation, so that rice had not been used at the station for about six months.

Shortly before this visit by Mr. Winter, and whilst I was absent on the relief expedition to the west end of the Owen Stanley Range, far too great precipitancy had been used in this district by the officers responsible in arresting sorcerers, over thirty of them having been sent to Port Moresby at one time. It was chiefly on account of this that Mr. Winter had been requested to visit the district during my absence in Brisbane, and to stay there for some time with a large force of constabulary under the Commandant. It will be noticed that Mr. Winter was told the natives were discontented because the Government will not kill the sorcerers. The members of the mission seem to attach a great deal more importance to the utterly ignorant though sometimes cunning sorcerer than one would wish to see. Gaol is only an awkward palliative for the sore of sorcery; it is not a cure. It is easy to attach too much importance to it. It is certainly unadvisable to proceed too fast or too far in that as in most native matters. The most influential native in the district was appointed native agent, and put on a similar footing to that of the native agent in the Rigo district, a most useful officer. The regulation regarding carriers for Government had also been used irregularly and without judgment in a part of this district, and this had at the time caused some discontent. This was, however, soon forgotten, and Mr. Winter saw no appearance of disaffection. There had been a great deal of sickness at Maiva, where the sea is fast encroaching on the villages.

Eight villages were visited in the east end of the Gulf. They had all been orderly. A prisoner accused of manslaughter at Mobiabi had been taken to Port Moresby by the village constables. Cocoanut plantations are being largely extended.

The members of the Sacred Heart Mission were learning English gradually. Several of their stations in Mekeo were unoccupied, but they were pushing themselves into Maiva, already very fully served by the London Missionary Society. No land has been granted there to the invading mission. It will be seen that liberty of conscience, or doctrinal predilection, is not concerned in this encroachment. It proceeds from petty quarrels and personal preference. These were not allowed to prevail when Aipiani, in the Sacred Heart Mission district, insisted on having a Protestant Mission. They are now content with the Catholic one.

20. On the 22nd March Daru was left on an inspection tour of the coast lying west of that station. A night had to be spent across the boundary in the Queensland Island of Saibai. At Bugi, on the New Guinea coast opposite Boigu, it was found that the remnants of a number of tribes shattered, dispersed, and nearly exterminated by the Tugeri raiders from Dutch New

Guinea had, to the number of about 200, established a prosperous village. Contrary to what one would expect on looking from the sea inland, there seems to be a great area of good land behind the new village. A detachment of six men of the constabulary had been stationed there to form a solid nucleus for the commencement of this settlement. They had barely begun then to reap their crops from their own land for the first time, but their gardens have since come into full bearing, with the result that these hunted people have now—many of them for the first time in their life—plenty to eat. There is every prospect of their being joined by further fragments of "bush" tribes. There is no doubt a great area of good unoccupied land all round the head of the Mai-Kussa and Wasi-Kussa.

No trace of any visit from the Tugeri could be seen along the coast between the Wasi-Kussa and Walarter.

From the point at Walarter a passage was made across to Deliverance Island to determine the exact position, geographically, of the island, and to ascertain its value as an anchorage for the western part of the Possession. On the way across, the tops of the trees at Walarter were lost sight of as those on Deliverance Island came into view. The sea between them is perfectly open, but a large vessel cannot come nearer than, say, a couple of miles or more of either. The island has an area of about 120 acres, but varies apparently by two or three acres now and then. It contains fresh water, but not of first-rate quality. It is a great resort of the green turtle. It furnishes good anchorage all round the circumference of the reef, and will be very useful as an anchorage for the west coast, being within easy reach of the Morehead River.

A considerable amount of work was carried out at Daru for facilitating the navigation of the strait between it and the mainland, and for obtaining better knowledge of the fishing grounds of certain New Guinea tribes on the Warrior Reefs.

On the 4th April a call was made at the first village in the Fly estuary—Giavi. The community was found to be perfectly quiet and orderly, but school work was stagnant. At Saguana and on the whole of Kiwai Island all was thoroughly quiet and peaceable, the village police being quite equal to the task of maintaining order. The Wabuda tribes were found to be equally well settled and domesticated. The villagers of Gauobori had greatly improved, and their village policemen were gradually extending their control and authority over the bushmen of the inland district. Maipani and Dibiri were this time without any complaint, they both having entered into peace and friendship with Sisiamia. The latter were at first shy and suspicious, but on our return journey they got over all that. The Wawoi or western branch of the Bamu was traversed for some fourscore miles. Only the first ten or twenty miles seems to be ever visited by natives. Above that it is absolutely unoccupied and unused, and

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it presents a great area of deep alluvial forest land with excellent water carriage. The Wawoi seems to be clearly a mountain stream. It is remarkably free of any obstruction of any kind.

The Bebea tribe is now a settled community. They have rebuilt their large houses, and are on friendly terms with Sisiamia and all other neighbours. The great tribes about Risk Point appear to be now of a friendly disposition, and anxious to be visited by Europeans.

21. On the 18th April a journey from Port Moresby to the Brown River was begun, to decide whether a road should be pushed along that stream to where it receives its principal affluent, the Ruguoa, as it was already known that an easy road existed from that point along the Wowea valley to the lowest depression in the Owen Stanley Range. The existing track crossed the Laloki too low down, and passed to the west of Mount Lawes. It appeared a matter of no great difficulty to make a better road by crossing the Laloki higher up, and passing to the east of Mount Lawes, and it seemed only a question of time, and as requiring no extraordinary amount of labour, to make a bridle track along the course of the Brown to the junction of the Ruguoa. There is no native occupation whatever on this road after leaving the sea coast. The land near to Mount Lawes is not good except in small patches, but there is some good soil further on in the Mount Keith Range, and further inland it seems to improve still more. There is grass as far as the Brown.

22. On the 25th April Your Lordship and the Right Hon. Sir Hugh M. Nelson arrived in New Guinea, and participated in visits of inspection from that date to the 28th May. A Report on this visit was written by Sir Hugh Nelson to the Chief Secretary of Queensland, copy of which will be found as Appendix AA hereto.* A journey was made to the Astrolabe Range; and buildings, constabulary, and plantations were inspected at the seat of Government. A call was made at Tupuseleia, where the village school was seen. A short halt was made at the London Missionary Society's Training College at Vatorata. One night was spent at Aroma, the largest native settlement in that part of the country, where village life can be well seen. Your Excellency, with a small party, crossed from Mullen's Harbour to Milne Bay, while the steamer went past Samarai, where the usual inspections were made with satisfactory results. The chief of Mita, who exercises considerable authority over Milne Bay, reported all quiet and well; a like satisfactory state of matters was found at Awaiama. A call was made at Dogura, the seat of the Anglican Mission, and Bishop Stone-Wigg made the journey up the north-east coast in the steamer. A new mission house had just been landed at Phillips Harbour.

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*Not printed.

23. A visit was made to the Government Station on the Mambare River, and a better start was made in resettling the natives of the district. There were promising prospects of gold in the Gira district, and the development of the station was proceeding gradually. The Gira River was ascended as far as Dawatara village, but the district was much unsettled by the presence in it of the deserter Dumai and his gang.

At the Ope River and at Gona Bay the natives were very friendly and seemed to be making some advance. Your Lordship ascended the Musa River in the steam launch for about a day's journey, and Cape Nelson was well examined.

The London Missionary Station at Kwato, conducted by the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Abel, was inspected, and found to be in a flourishing condition.

24. On the 28th May the mission at Tubetube was visited. It was found that the mission influenced that and all the neighbouring islands, which were all perfectly quiet.

At Dobu a charge against the chief of abusing his position was investigated. There was nothing of importance in the case.

One could see at Kavatari that the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Fellows were making sure progress. A very wonderful change was observable in the girls being educated on the mission premises. Certain villages had reverted to burying amongst their houses. These were dealt with by the Resident Magistrate.

The great chief, Enamakala, professed to be most desirous of learning to carry out his duties as principal Government chief. He was proud of the mission established at his village. The archipelago seemed to be quiet. The Amphlett group was inspected, and everything found satisfactory.

The Dobu schools made a good appearance, showing that the pupils and scholars are extremely well taught and educated.

The natives in the Seymour Bay district had settled down and lost their shyness.

A difference between two tribes at Goodenough was disposed of on the spot.

25. On the Mambare Mr. Clunas and his party were cutting a path to the Yodda Valley. Fifty-six miners' rights had been issued by the Government agent. Several time-expired constables were returned to the district as village policemen, and they began, supported by some constabulary, by arresting the deserter Dumai, who was implicated in the murder of Mr. Green. They proceeded to resettle their respective tribes. Further examination was made of the north-east coast.

The schools of the Anglican Mission at Dogura were inspected. The scholars were being carefully taught in the lower school. In the upper school much progress had been made, and many pupils were found to be well advanced.

The training college at Vatorata was also inspected, and was considered to be in every way suitable for its great and important functions.

The Government Station at Rigo was in good condition, with large food gardens and flourishing cocoanut groves.

26. On the 26th July I left Port Moresby to inspect the Brown River road as far as it had then been made. A better ford had been found across the Laloki at the point where it receives the Goldie. A superior road had also been found from Port Moresby to this point. The road then passes east of Mount Lawes, and crosses Mount Keith to Hospital Hill by easy gradients. The road is about 20 feet wide, and very suitable for pack-animals as far as the Brown. Thence it had been carried too far to the east, and over very uneven ground. It had to be turned back to the river. The prisoners employed on this road were in excellent condition. Some thirty free labourers from the west were taken out at the same time to push on the road before the wet season sets in.

On the 23rd August a hurried journey, occasioned by a totally false report of an attack on the farm established on Mount Warirata, was made necessary. Taburi, Sogeri, and the intermediate country were visited at the same time, and some useful work was done, so that the time was not lost in that way. But I had the mortification of having all my notes afterwards carelessly and hopelessly lost by being dropped overboard into the sea.

27. Mr. Winter visited the Mambare Station on 28th August. The natives were building their houses at two or three places on the river. The steam launch "Ruby" had been refitted and provided with a competent driver in order that the Commandant and others should be able to patrol the north-east coast, and to frequently ascend the large rivers during the season. The Commandant was not very well, and Mr. Winter allowed him to leave the district and to return to Port Moresby.

Mr. Russel, the Government Surveyor, had been sent to lay out a number of building sites near the Tamata Station, and Mr. Winter had to leave Mr. Russel in sole charge of the whole district, a very unsatisfactory state of matters, with 100 miners on the field, and more constantly arriving. There was not a little sickness. The village policemen were evidently of great use in the district. The escaped Mambare prisoners had been captured, and also the principal ringleaders concerned in the murders of two or three years ago—arrests that the constabulary alone could not effect.

Some unarmed natives on the Upper Ope had attacked three miners and some carriers, and the miners had lost a carrier and a quantity of goods. It was unfortunate that the Commandant, who had at disposal a large force, had not been able to go or to send there. Mr. Clunas and his party had returned from cutting

a track to the Yodda Valley. His report* will be found attached, with a sketch map indicating the route taken and the nature of the country passed through. This should be a useful bit of exploration. It is highly creditable to Mr. Clunas and his companions, all of them men of enterprise, courage, and tact.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS.

South-Eastern Division.

28. The Magistrate reports that an order by him to natives to not carry large knives when visiting miners in Murua was obeyed to the letter. The native population there seems well under the control of the village policemen. The recent introduction of venereal disease into the island is likely to be productive of much evil. Maladies of this kind were not known till taken there by Europeans. At Misima the natives are now thoroughly under control. The murder of a native at Rossel Island had been reported. It is no doubt the murder of one native by another, if such a crime has really been committed.

There were no convictions recorded at Sudest during the year. Complaint is again made of the abuses connected with the system of giving goods to natives on credit. It will be remembered that some time ago legislation on this matter was suggested, but it did not then meet with the approval of the Queensland Government. Subsequently this position was reconsidered, and it was intimated to the Government of the Possession that legislation might be had recourse to if the abuses complained of continued. This will no doubt be borne in mind by the Administrator.

No Europeans now work alluvial mining on Sudest, and mining there by natives is falling off. One quartz-mine had been worked on a small scale, with, it is understood, fairly satisfactory results. The company employed labourers, successfully, from the Fly district.

Some eighteen miners seem to have become domesticated on Misima, and to make a living there. On Maurua, in April last, there were 160 miners. They were much scattered, and the alluvial grounds were becoming exhausted. The general conduct of the miners was excellent.

The few vessels employed in pearl-shell fishing near Sudest obtained 32 tons; and the natives collected 12½ tons of black-lipped shell. Ten tons of excellent bêche-de-mer were got by a boat manned by Queensland natives. There are seventeen stores in this division, licensed under the Gold Fields Act.

The station barracks have been rebuilt at Nivani. The cocoa-nut trees, about 3,500 in number, are now coming into bearing.

* Not printed.

Little imported food has been required. There is a very good and suitable vessel for the use of the Magistrate, manned entirely by natives.

One miner was attacked on Murua by two natives as a result of a personal quarrel. Fortunately this did not end fatally, and it seems to have been the only serious crime that took place in the South-east Division during the year, with the exception of the possible murder mentioned above, not yet investigated.

There were 213 Europeans in the division. It has a score of village constables. The total number of cases dealt with by the magistrate and warden was 106.

29. The South-east Division is the smallest of the four magisterial districts, and is for this and other reasons the best under control. The islands are not large, so that the natives are never far beyond reach. A magistrate was stationed there some two or three months after annexation. His headquarters were then on Sudest. He had, of course, no police or constabulary, and had no vessel. Subsequently, the magistrate was stationed on Misima, and later still the Government Station was established on the then unoccupied Island of Nivani. Gradually some control was established at Sudest, the natives of which place were from the very first amenable to European influence. They were fast being killed out in petty warfare, and were very glad to have peace thrust on them. It was very different at Misima. There, for several years, murders were of constant occurrence, and the tribes, though small, were refractory. It was very difficult to reach them on account of the rough nature of the ground. They also gave great trouble by their inveterate habit of stealing. At Murua there were also many murders, and several special expeditions had to be carried out against certain tribes there. All this is now so completely of the past that it may be considered that the division is quite under the authority of the Government. Visits are seldom paid to Rossel Island, because there is no European there, but even there the position of the magistrate is well established. That officer, with his regular constabulary and his score of village policemen, provided with a good ketch and a whaleboat, is quite equal to the government of the division. The station is already producing a great part of its food, and it will soon be able to sell cocoanuts. The very satisfactory state of those islands is undoubtedly largely due to the excellent services of the present magistrate, Mr. A. M. Campbell. No better man could have been obtained for the position. While doing his duty strictly, he has earned the respect of European and native alike, and, while maintaining a high state of efficiency, he has done what is most essential in British New Guinea—carefully studied economy. There is not much doing in the way of cultivation by Europeans in this district. One gentleman is planting cocoanuts in the Conflict group, which was found destitute of inhabitants. His trees seem to do remarkably well. A few small blocks have been taken up, but they are of little consequence. Only small

areas would be available at any one place, save perhaps on Sudest Island, where there are considerable stretches of land unoccupied, which might be used for growing coffee and such like products.

Mambare.

30. The report of the Government Agent for the Mambare district covers the period of his service there, from the 8th August, 1897, to the 30th June, 1898. He took with him from Port Moresby a score of selected prisoners to cut a track from the Government Station along the Otovia Range, to facilitate prospecting operations. There were then twenty constabulary in the district, and ten at the mouth of the river. Attempts to capture Dumai and other ringleaders failed. Mr. Shanahan cut a track from the station to the Gira River, and found good samples of gold wash and osmiridium, now in the official collections in Brisbane. Rich colours of gold had been found in our first ascent of the Gira, which was the inducement to cut a track from the station to that river. This track was shortened to twenty-five miles. A track was cut to within some half-dozen miles of the foot of Mount Albert Edward. Altogether about seventy miles of track were cut. The natives remained hostile. The only tribe not openly inimical was attacked by others, and thirteen were killed, according to certain reports. There were some other intertribal fights in the district attended with very considerable loss of life. As late as 8th May last the natives fought a detachment of constabulary, when four or five natives were shot and four were made prisoners. The Government Agent, it will be seen, did not, on my visit to the district in May last, approve of allowing and inviting the natives to resettle on their own lands. His attitude towards them had been too much in conformity with the idea of making them pariahs. Their resettlement was imperative in the interests of humanity and of sound policy. The resettlement has progressed since that date with highly satisfactory results, and may soon make these natives useful to the trader, the miner, and themselves.

The carriers and native labourers employed by the prospectors had given much trouble by running away. This is now rendered easier, and practically safe, by the pacification of the tribes along the north-east coast.

The rubber industry has been started in the district, and seems to have a large future before it in this part of the country.

Mining has been, for the present, practically abandoned at the foot of Mount Scratchley; but the special report by the warden shows that the Gira Gold Field is one of very considerable promise.

31. The history of the Mambare district has been a chequered one. So far as I know, the first European that ever was afloat

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on the Mambare was the renowned German scientist, Dr. Otto Finsch, in April, 1885. This gentleman lamented, in his work "Samoa-Reisen," his inability to ascend or examine the river. In February, 1894, a Government party, for the first time, inspected the Mambare as far as it was navigable—in fact, to a higher point than has ever since been reached by a boat of any kind. The opinion was formed of the natives of the district, especially near the sea, that they were treacherous and untrustworthy. Higher up the river they were at first shy and timid. At the village of Umi they then, however, surrounded the leader of the party, who was in a dingy with one native boy, no doubt with the intention of committing homicide; but they were evidently afraid of a formidable silver-plated revolver, and soon after were restrained by the arrival of a boat. In August, 1895, they treacherously murdered Mr. Clark, the leader of a prospecting party, which had already nearly reached the highest navigable point of the river.

Soon after this murder the river was visited by a force of constabulary, and several men were captured as they were preparing to attack the police camp. Five or six of the men then arrested are now village constables in the district. A station of a permanent character was established at the junction of the Tamata with the Mambare. Friendly relations seemed to exist with most of the tribes, but there were repeated signs of ill-will and petty treachery. In January, 1897, Mr. Green, the Government Agent and Assistant Magistrate, was murdered with several constables. The natives were at first in open hostility after this, and fought the constabulary several times. They were driven out of their villages, but the ringleaders always evaded capture until the return of the men now appointed village constables. A comparatively large force of constabulary is still kept in the district. There is good reason to think that the present settlement of the tribes, now that the ringleaders have been delivered up, will be effective. It is greatly to be regretted that the Anglican Mission is not able to participate in this pacification. The great desideratum of the Mambare at the present moment is the appointment of a medical man as resident magistrate there. There is every probability of this becoming a mining district of some importance. It has great agricultural capabilities, and possesses large areas of good land quite unoccupied and unused in any way.

There is still an outstanding question in this district connected with the boundary. Mr. Shanahan's report is sufficient to show that the affluents of the Gira are of some importance to the miner. The Gira proceeds from Mount Albert Edward, a great mountain well inside of British territory, but it touches the boundary some four or five miles from the sea, and opens into the latter some half-a-mile inside the German Protectorate. It has been proposed to neutralise the river as far as it is navigable, or to make it the

boundary up to where it last touches the 8th degree of south latitude. This matter has not yet been finally dealt with.

Arrangements were made for exercising a vigorous patrol of the Mambare and of the north-east coast generally during the present season by stationing the large steam launch there with the Commandant and the moveable detachment of constabulary. The non-appointment of a magistrate is likely to frustrate this, and it cannot fail to retard the settlement of the district, recently initiated with so much promise. This is not the fault of the Government of British New Guinea, which foresaw the need for this appointment some months since.

Eastern Division.

32. The Resident Magistrate for the Eastern Division reports the general conduct of the natives to be the same as last year—that is, "steadily improving." The cases heard before the native magistrate's court indicate a decrease of twenty-two as against those of the previous year; but on the other hand there is an increase of indictable offences. Desertion from hired service is mentioned as becoming a "serious matter." Dysentery has again made its appearance, and carried off in some localities a somewhat high percentage of victims. Food has been fairly plentiful in the division, except at the beginning of the year along the south coast. There had been some disturbances on Goodenough and on Kiriwina Islands. The majority of the village constables are efficient officers, and have rendered good service, but some are spoken of as useless. The improv ments at Samarai include a sea wall, a stone jetty, a stone wall to protect the public offices from the sea; several private houses are being erected, a public library has been opened, and one slip for small vessels has been completed. Three thousand cocoanuts have been planted on Gesila Island. The Anglican and Wesleyan Missions have made good progress throughout the year.

Mention is made of complaints by natives against the employment of dynamite in fishing. This matter has already been dealt with by legislation.

Normanby and Fergusson Islands yielded no results to prospectors. Some sulphur is being exported from Seymour Bay, from ground which it is in contemplation to lease for this purpose. The average number of prisoners at Samarai was thirty-five, with one death. Native labourers to the number of 777 were engaged before the magistrate.

33. It is impossible to regard the establishment provided for this magisterial division, which extends from Table Point to the German boundary, as being nearly adequate. This great district alone could very well furnish employment to all the magistrates in the Possession. A Government Agent was stationed at Samarai some time before annexation, but he was, of course,

powerless. Soon after the establishment of Government a Resident Magistrate was stationed at Samarai. In this district, at Awaiama, the new Government was first called upon to assert itself in consequence of an attack on a small vessel, the captain of which had been murdered and his crew cut up. The vessel was looted and burned. With no police of any kind, and with only a 50-ton schooner for transport, it was a very difficult and somewhat hazardous matter for the four or five officers concerned to deal with and punish a confederation of the tribes of the neighbourhood. In the first collision several natives were killed, and after a long struggle the four principal ringleaders were captured and were executed at different places in the district in the presence of as many natives as could be assembled. This apparently harsh measure was completely successful, and put an end to the murder of white men in that part of the country, and laid, for the Government authority, the foundation of a prestige it has never lost. Its authority was soon established over a wide area, especially after a constabulary force had been organised. In 1891 the Government obtained the powerful assistance of the Wesleyan Mission, which arrived there full of zeal and work, and commenced operations with an earnestness of purpose which has never flagged. The same year the newly-planted Anglican Mission received a stunning blow by the death of the Rev. Albert Maclaren, a blow from which it has recovered fully only by the recent appointment of Bishop Stone-Wigg. The authority of the magistrate, widely extended as it gradually has become, does not nearly cover the whole division, though it is felt all along its coastline. There still remain inland great areas that have never been visited by a policeman. The Resident Magistrate is almost always travelling by water, for which he has a substantial and suitable schooner, manned exclusively by natives. The coastline alone would more than take up his whole time. Much is effected, however, by settled natives in extending settlement to others. This process will apparently have to be allowed to take its way, as there exist at present no means of adding to the staff in this division. Mr. Moreton has now had a good deal of experience in dealing with the natives of that part of the country, and it is to be hoped that his knowledge and tact in controlling them may long continue at the service of the Government. He has a very efficient assistant in Mr. Symonds. Much was done by Mr. W. E. Armit in beautifying the island of Samarai, and this work has been continued by Mr. Symonds, with the result that Samarai is now one of the most beautiful islands in the South Seas; ten years ago it was one of the most objectionable. A good few houses have been erected there lately. No land has been sold, but leases for twenty-one years have been granted. An excellent wharf has been built by the firm of Burns, Philp, & Co. There can be no doubt that the business of Samarai will steadily grow. The island will before long be found to be too small. It has been all planted in cocoanuts. It is hoped that the Government will soon have a plantation of 6,000 or 7,000 cocoanut trees on Gesila Island.

Central Division.

34. Towards the end of last year, as shown by the Report of the Resident Magistrate, the Mekeo district was agitated by rumours of threatened attacks on the Government. These were by report connected with the sorcerers, who in reality comprise a very large part of the population. A raid was made on certain reputed sorcerers after the "Merrie England" had been sent to Pinupaka with a large force of constables. They were surrendered peaceably on demand, and no hostility was manifested openly. The fighting men handed in their weapons when asked to do so, and these articles and the charms of the sorcerers were publicly burned. The sorcerers to the number of some thirty persons were sent to gaol. I did not approve of such wholesale arrests on a purely constructive offence; and the sorcerers were allowed to return to their homes quietly when their sentences were up.

In November the magistrate had to exercise restraint on the troublesome and irritating action of some over-zealous teachers, more especially at Kalo, a place at which, before annexation, the mission had sustained a cruel massacre.

In December, in a locality two days' journey inland from Kerepunu, one tribe attacked another and committed some homicides. The perpetrators were secured by the coast village police and their friends, and were delivered to the magistrate.

At Womi, in the Gulf, there was some trouble in effecting the arrest of an escaped prisoner, who was, however, captured. Shots were interchanged between the constabulary and some of the people of Maipua in connection with the arrest of a thief, who thus escaped, but was in the end delivered up with a peace-offering. One of their young men then joined the constabulary, and will later on, most likely, become village constable there.

At Orokolo a village constable was dismissed, charged with having committed incest, which is said to be not rare in that district. This is totally incompatible with the practice of totemism existing in the east end of the Possession, and not quite unknown west of the Fly.

At Keuru, in the Gulf, certain natives that had committed a burglary were surrendered on the demand of the Resident Magistrate.

On a visit to Mohu, the magistrate had the satisfaction of seeing 217 people at church. In May last the same officer found the roads of Mekeo in good order. At Inawi an excellent church had been erected, and nearly all its people attend service. The Government station was growing sufficient food, and the sorcerers were behaving well after their incarceration. There was, unfortunately, a heavy mortality from a virulent epidemic of dysentery along a great extent of coast. This disease is new

to this part of the country, having been introduced only within the last three or four years, how and when is not accurately known. Natives were very willing to take the medicines given to them.

In the whole of the Central Division there are eighty-three village constables. The magistrate has a suitable schooner at his disposal, manned by natives who are drilled and armed as constables. Mention is made of considerable stretches of roads opened during the year, some by private enterprise.

35. The Government Agent for the Rigo district reports that the conduct of the people has been most satisfactory, morally and socially. They have improved their dwellings and had plenty of food. All the tribes on the Vanigela River visit and trade with each other in peace and friendship, though not long ago they were mortal enemies to each other. There are now numerous villages in which there is no longer spear or club. Old tribal animosities are to some extent kept up at certain places near the main range. The heavy mortality from dysentery of an epidemic type is noticed, and the idleness of the coast natives is commented upon. The Government Agent found the formerly troublesome tribes on the Robinson River quiet, peaceable, and friendly. The rubber industry was introduced there. It is mentioned that at the village of Wanegela there was found in one house the father, mother, and eighteen children. I understand the children were all alive. This is the largest family I have ever known an aboriginal to bear. On the Belerupu lagoon two village constables rule 1,239 people. Eight village constables maintain peace and order among the 4,147 persons of the Keakaro tribe. Village burial has entirely ceased in the district. The traders had behaved well during the year. The station grows about half the food it requires. The establishment consists of the Government Agent, six constables, and some prisoners. There are twenty-three village constables in the agent's district, and a dozen paid chiefs. The Government Agent has at his disposal a good whaleboat and some horses.

36. Before annexation was declared, a great deal had been done in the Central Division at Port Moresby, and at some other places on the coast, by the London Missionary Society. Murders, however, took place on the watershed of Port Moresby for some time after the declaration of sovereignty, and up to quite a recent date a dozen miles inland from that place. The action of the Government, like that of the mission, was first extended along the coast. The first time I visited the village of Kaile, then all built on piles in the sea, the inhabitants could not go ashore for fresh water on account of some bush tribes then lying in wait for them. Murders were, for several years, of very common occurrence in the Rigo district, at Kabadi, at Nara, at Maiva, and eastward as far as Samarai. The coast tribes were first subdued and pacified. At Aroma, the site of the powerful Keakaro

tribe, now ruled by its eight excellent village policemen, all were in arms against the Government less than half-a-dozen years ago. Authority and control have gradually extended themselves east as far as Table Point, and west as far as the Purari, and at several places have already reached the foot of the main range. There still, however, remain large areas beyond reach of the village constable, far inland in glens and mountains at present too far removed to be accessible or important. The staff of a Resident Magistrate and two Government Agents is, of course, far from being sufficient for all purposes, but it is enough to maintain what has already been won, and to gradually extend the sphere of influence. Another Government Agent is very much wanted about Orokolo, to command the tribes of the Purari Delta, and others as far as Risk Point. Arrests have been made by the constabulary from end to end of this great magisterial division, and it is quite safe to the traveller and trader.

Much credit is due to Dr. Blayney for the way he has devoted himself to the working of his immense district. His medical services have also been of the greatest value to both natives and Europeans. Mr. English, one of the oldest servants of the Government, has now an experience of travelling in the Possession that is unrivalled, and which cannot but be of immense value to the service in future. He has deeply impressed his mark on the Rigo district, to the great gain of the natives. It has already been mentioned that his services to economic industry have also been meritorious. Mr. Bramell, Government Agent for the Mekeo district, had a somewhat difficult task, to which at first he was new. The Resident Magistrate is satisfied with his work.

Western Division.

37. The Magistrate for the Western Division reports that the condition of the native population has been satisfactory, and that crime has decreased though authority has been extended. Sorcery caused some trouble there also, but the most common offence is adultery, and next to that assaults. In this part of the colony there was no serious sickness. The season was a wet one, and therefore food was plentiful. The tribes of Mawatta and Tureture have begun to fish pearl-shell on their own account, and are now leasing boats for that purpose.

In July the coast was visited as far as Bugi, and in August the Fly Estuary. In the same month a journey was made inland to the Jibu country and beyond. The condition of the natives was gratifying, and much good land, fit for settlement, was met with. The same month Murare, on the Fly, was inspected. It was found that at no great distance from the river the country rises into grassy ridges. The Bugi settlement was founded in October. The Fly Estuary was again gone over in December.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897-8.

In May the Oriomo tribes received a call, and land for settlement by Europeans was looked out.

The constabulary were healthy, and did good work. On the prison register there were 101 names during the year. Three died, two of them old men, the third probably from beriberi. There are in this division sixty-three village police, or paid chiefs. They have practically arrested all persons charged with offences. The number of labourers under engagement was 205, exclusive of those employed by the Government. There is very little trade in this part of the country.

A substantial gaol, capable of accommodating ninety to one hundred persons, was built of hardwood. This should as soon as possible be roofed with iron. A new house has also been built for the magistrate, with an iron roof and ample accommodation.

The station has a good and suitable lugger, and a whaleboat, manned by a native crew. A large quantity of native food was grown at the station. The good services of Mr. H. W. de Lange are noticed by the Resident Magistrate.

38. This magisterial division extends from the Bensbach—the British-Dutch boundary—to the Purari delta. It contains numerous great areas that are at present quite unknown, and it will be a very long time before those can be fully examined by the present establishment, which consists for this division of only the Resident Magistrate, the Sub-Collector, and native employees. The first Government settlement in the west was at Mabudauan, where houses were built by the late Mr. J. B. Cameron.

The station was shifted by Mr. Hely to the Island of Daru, where plenty of good land and a suitable site were found. At first the harbour at Daru was unknown, and shipping difficulties were great at Mabudauan. The western part of the district had been depopulated and wasted by the Tugeri invaders before, probably long before, this. But their raids were kept up till 1896. When the first station was built it was in constant danger of being attacked and plundered by the tribes living nearest to it. Gradually authority was established over some of the nearest septs, and this was consolidated by the appointment of village policemen. Under them control is maintained from the Maikussa to the Bebea, and their influence extends well into the great expanse that lies between the sea at Torres Straits and the Fly. This division contains large areas of unoccupied land, and when these are taken up additional officers will be required, but then the revenue will no doubt suffice to support this. With a Government Agent on the Morehead, two on the Fly, and one on the Gawai or on the Aird River, one magistrate, with a good steam launch, would suffice even in the face of great agricultural developments. A good deal has been done by Mr. Hely during

the last two or three years in visiting new districts. He has now a well-established position among the natives over a large area, and, if his health only permits it, he will now fast extend his ever widening circuit of effective control, familiar as he is with the ways and character of the western man.

The Daru station has grown up under his superintendence, and it is now amply sufficient for its purpose. It is not necessary to increase the western establishment until some economic industries begin to be opened up in the district, and for this it undoubtedly possesses large scope.

Commandant.

39. The report of the Commandant covers only the three last quarters of the year. It describes an operation by the Acting Resident Magistrate, Mr. Monckton, and the Commandant, against certain hill tribes on the north-east coast of Goodenough Island. Mr. Thomson had started a plantation on that part of the island, and some misunderstanding had arisen between his labourers and the hill tribes. The latter attacked the labourers and killed some of them. The magistrate found that the force at his disposal was not sufficient to effect the necessary arrests, and therefore the Commandant, with a strong detachment, was sent to assist him. They were met by much yelling and by slingstones, but there was no real determined resistance. The sling is as much the national weapon of Goodenough Island as the bow and arrow is that of the west, but it has never been found to be formidable in this colony. On the north-east coast at the places where they used to manufacture stones of a certain form for the sling, it seems to have fallen already into desuetude. The expedition was successful, and 16 prisoners were secured. These natives have since settled down quietly. The Commandant with his detachment was sent with Mr. Winter to the Mekeo district in connection with the arrest of the sorcerers. He describes the natives as being very friendly, and eulogises the work of Father Bouellat, at whose church there were present at least 450 people. In February the Commandant was on patrol duty in the Rigo district, and found all the natives quiet and well disposed.

40. The armed constabulary numbered at the end of the year 110 men, all Papuans. They are distributed at the various stations, so as to leave a patrolling detachment of about twenty-five men. These figures do not include the detachment of the Resident Magistrate at Samarai, the members of which have always been engaged separately and independently. The first nucleus of an armed constabulary was formed by a dozen Solomon Islanders, kindly recruited in Fiji by the late Sir John B. Thurston in 1890. In charge of these were two Fijians, non-commissioned officers. During the first year of the existence of this force, some eight Papuans were added to it by voluntary

enlistment. At first recruits could not be had. The natives were suspicious of the constabulary, and would not join. But gradually the uniform of the force, their arms, and the good and regular food, became attractive; generally the recruits were at first of inferior physique. Step by step it has become a purely native force, and now contains a considerable number of the strongest men in the country, and the Commandant is able to select the best men out of many applicants. Not a few natives seem to have adopted the force as a profession, several of them having now served five years. They are recruited from all districts of the colony, but more are engaged from the west than from elsewhere. The standard of drill and discipline is not and never can be high, broken up as the force is into so many detachments, and under the command of so many officers. It is, however, quite obvious that the Magistrates and Government Agents take a pride in their men, and generally they are found neat, smart, and with their arms in good condition. Naturally their accoutrements are of the simplest and cheapest description, but on the whole they are suitable and efficient. The prestige of the constabulary is now great; they have faith in their officers, and they have confidence in themselves. Of their perfect loyalty to their Queen there can be no doubt. Some of them recently came to myself and said they wished to leave the service because of my departure. When it was pointed out to them that Queen Victoria's service remained ever the same, whoever Her Majesty might send to British New Guinea as her Governor, and that, therefore, they should continue to serve her as heretofore, they quite understood the argument, and recognised that they are still Queen Victoria's men. They are paid at the rate of 10*s*. a month the first year and £1 a month afterwards.

Doubt was expressed at first by those that knew the Papuan best whether they could be trusted as a constabulary, fear being entertained that they would be too prone to use their weapons, to abuse their position, and perhaps that they might turn on their employers. But the good nature of the race has manifested itself openly in the constabulary. Quarrels amongst themselves are very rare. It is not often that they have been guilty of extortion. In dealing with refractory, wild, or hostile tribes they have on many occasions shown an amount of forbearance that was simply astonishing. This has frequently been carried to an extent that has caused danger. Personally I have never seen one of them flinch before opposition; and it cannot be doubted that a mere handful of them will follow a man they trust anywhere, and abide by him. The late Corporal Sedu could have escaped when Mr. Green was murdered; he had already got clear and could have got away, but he returned and died by his officer. Others have shown similar devotion, though with a happier issue, under circumstances of great danger.

It is gratifying that Your Lordship and the Secretary of State have sanctioned the issue of a good-conduct medal which can be

given to members of the constabulary in recognition of meritorious service. I regret that I have not had an opportunity of presenting this personally to the present sergeant, Sepa; to Corporal Kimai; and to Romé, the first native of British New Guinea to cross the island from sea to sea. No doubt this will be attended to by my successor.

41. The constabulary alone, however, could never carry out police work in all the villages of the Possession. To meet this a large body of village policemen is gradually being created, which will eventually cover the whole country with a continuous network. This began originally with one man, the excellent village policeman of Port Moresby. They now number as follows:—

Western Division	63
Central Division	83
Eastern Division	36
South-eastern Division...	20
Total at the end of the year	202

The usefulness of the village policemen, of course, depends greatly on the Resident Magistrate or Government Agent in each case. Less use seems to be made of them in the Eastern Division than elsewhere. In the west they practically perform all ordinary police work, the constabulary thus remaining free to extend authority over new tribes, and being always ready as a reserve to support the village policemen when necessary. In the Central Division they arrest and bring in most prisoners; and they constantly join the constabulary, and help the latter to carry out their own more particular functions amongst inland tribes. In the South-east Division Mr. Campbell attributes the highly satisfactory state of his jurisdiction in a large degree to the services of the village policemen. Mr. Moreton does not seem to be so well served by them. Nevertheless, the recent arrests on the Mambare would not have been effected without the newly appointed village policemen of that district. Each of these men receives, with a few exceptions, only £1 a year and suitable uniform. This number will probably be trebled or quadrupled during the next ten years. They are the best substitute that can be created in the place of the tribal chiefs that do not exist in British New Guinea.

42. Nothing shows better the march of events in the Possession during the last decade than the progressive employment of natives. When annexation took place, there was not a native in any regular employment under the Government. The boat's crew in Port Moresby Harbour consisted of coloured men imported from Queensland. These were paid each £8 a month. After a short time they could not be engaged at less than £14. It was considered risky to man the boat with Papuans, though the London Missionary Society must often have had crews mainly composed of natives. It was perfectly clear that no

Administration could long be carried on in this way on £15,000 a year. For this reason, as well as for the education of the natives, it was decided that they should be employed wherever possible. No expenditure can be incurred in British New Guinea without the sanction of Queensland. A very modest vote was proposed by me for native employees in submitting the first estimates of expenditure, but this was struck out in Queensland as an absurdity. In the Estimates for 1891-92, however, a vote of £50 was approved for "chiefs and native magistrates." At the present time probably about one-fifth of the total expenditure is disbursed for native services. Were the whole £15,000 expended on a European police force for the Possession, it would be far less efficient than the present native armed constabulary and village policemen.

Overseer of Works and Head Gaoler.

43. Mr. MacDonald, overseer of works, in his report merely enumerates the different kinds of work done during the year, almost entirely carried out by prison labour. These were chiefly repairs to buildings, cleaning cocoanut plantations, building a seawall, and roadmaking. This is more fully dealt with under "Prisons."

44. In his report on prisons, the head gaoler mentions that long-sentenced prisoners are generally sent to serve their sentence in districts other than their own; short-sentenced prisoners remain in their own district. If a prisoner has to wait for an opportunity to get home, he is paid as a free labourer. Long-sentenced and well-behaved prisoners receive some trade goods when discharged. Several pass annually into the constabulary, where they almost invariably do good service. They are taught cleanliness, and learn to speak more or less English. They receive three meals a day. They suffer from slight attacks of fever, which generally last only for one day; and they are frequently the subjects of mild rheumatism. At Samarai the prison labour extended the stone jetty, built some seawall, and reclaimed the foreshore. In wet weather they were employed indoors. A bridle road was made across Mount Warirata. The seawall at Port Moresby was extended, and many other things were done by the prisoners. They begin work at 7 a.m., have an hour's rest in the middle of the day, and leave off work at 5 p.m. On Saturday they have a half-holiday. Prison offences are rare. There is no flogging. As a rule they are tractable, industrious, cheerful, and very intelligent. Old prisoners have frequently reported the intention of new ones to escape. At Port Moresby there are always four armed constables as prison guard. They are generally men that have themselves been prisoners, and this is a stimulus to prisoners who look forward to the time when they too may become the armed guard. There is one Solomon Island professional warder, who has now been in the service about eight years. Intelligent prisoners are appointed

gangers, and have certain small privileges, and these positions are much coveted. The prison language is English, but of course interpretation is very frequently required, almost always with new prisoners. The average number of prisoners on the Port Moresby register for the year was fifty-one.

45. Perhaps in no department has the Administration been more fortunate than in its head gaolers. Imprisonment was, of course, a totally new idea to the native. At first it was a complete failure. The prisoners fretted, lost courage, pined, sickened, and died. So serious was this the first year or two that it became a question whether, if matters continued in the same strain, it would not be necessary to abolish prisons altogether and substitute some form of relegation. But after a couple of years the prison began to be better understood, and the prisoners no longer died of dread or hopelessness. The regular hours, regular meals, and the demonstrated proof that the prisoners were not kept to be killed or illtreated, and would be eventually liberated, soon put them into a healthy state, both morally and physically. Fortunately the first head gaoler, the late Mr. Denis Gleeson, was precisely the man that was wanted to carry out the system of imprisonment that had been deliberately decided upon. He was very kind, even sympathetic, to prisoners; but at the same time he was firm, and maintained discipline without ever insisting on what would not have been allowed, the introduction of the brutalising lash. The bad man was punished; the good man was commended, rewarded, or promoted. All were taught obedience, regular habits, and the inflexibility of Government orders. They soon began to learn what things the white man will not allow. They were apt pupils under Mr. Gleeson, and the elder ones soon took to teaching the younger ones, and in the course of a few years they began to return to their own people to teach them also. Relapses are very infrequent. It was soon seen that the lines on which the prisoners were treated were fully applicable. On one occasion when Mr. Gleeson expressed a desire to come to Australia to see how prisoners are dealt with there, he was informed, with perfect sincerity, that I preferred his own system to any other. His successor, Mr. John Meredith, continued the same methods, taking a personal interest in the education of each prisoner. Mr. MacDonald is by no means behind his predecessors in these respects. Under his guidance the prison still continues to be a great training and educational establishment for adults. Many constables and village policemen, now doing excellent work as faithful and trustworthy servants, had their tuition in gaol. There is one point on which the prison system has fallen short of the ideal, and it has also been a defect all along in the case of the armed constabulary. It has not been possible to have a teacher exclusively for the prisoners, or one for the constabulary. Through the London Missionary Society, divine service is performed on the Sabbath for the prisoners at Port Moresby

and Samarai. But one would wish to have the long-sentenced men taught to read and write, which would add greatly to their usefulness after leaving prison. Hitherto the difficulties have been insuperable, but before long it may become practicable to employ teachers exclusively for this.

A visit to Samarai and Port Moresby will show even the most unobservant person that a great amount of work has already been performed by the prisoners. It was a very large undertaking at Samarai to fill in a dozen acres of noisome mangrove swamp. This had to be done, or the island had to be abandoned. At Port Moresby a considerable extent of road-making has been done; half the town site has been faced by a very substantial sea-wall. A considerable part of a stone pier has been built, and great cocoanut plantations have been kept clean. Latterly the prisoners have been road-making in the outlying country, and their work in this direction cannot be seen without visiting it there.

At the other stations prisoners are mainly employed in planting food, keeping buildings in repair, making roads, and such like. They are treated on the same lines as at Port Moresby and Samarai, the educational factor always in every case predominating over the penal.

It is confidently believed that all officers and employees connected with the prisoners are imbued by the right spirit, and that so long as this continues the prisoners will be well treated without being petted, and the prison will remain a valuable training institution.

Mission Work.

46. Of the four missionary bodies at work the oldest in the Possession is the London Missionary Society, started in 1871. Next comes the Sacred Heart Mission, established in 1885, that is three years before annexation. The Wesleyan and the Anglican missions were founded in 1891.

London Missionary Society.

47. The London Missionary Society, as the pioneer, was, of course, exposed to special danger and hardship in obtaining a footing in different parts of the country, and perhaps much more so in maintaining it. It was more through it than by any other means that the way was prepared for the founding of the colony. Before annexation it had a chequered existence. Many teachers died of illness. Several were killed by the people for whom they had come to work. In the history of this mission there loom out conspicuously the names of the two great missionaries, the Rev. Dr. W. G. Lawes and the Rev. James Chalmers, the former typically a man of thought, the latter typically a man of

action. Each of them has worked for and among the Papuans for over a score of years, and they still carry on work of the greatest importance.

Mr. Chalmers is now successfully working an English mission in the Fly estuary. He was practically the creator of the mission in the east end of the Possession; he evangelised Maiva and the neighbouring district; and he has been the apostle of the Gulf of Papua. His geographical work has also been of much value, especially in the Gulf country.

Mr. Holmes's mission I have not been able to visit personally, but it is very favourably spoken of by those that have seen it. His mission, not hitherto described in any despatch, is conducted as detailed in Appendix FF.* The missions at Port Moresby, Vatorata, Kerepuna, Fyfe Bay, Saguana, Delena, and Kwato have been already reported on.

The teaching of English is now being pushed by this mission. It has been decided to establish an inland mission, with a resident missionary, on the Vanigela (Kemp Welch River); and also to open an industrial school. At the present time they have eight established mission stations with a resident European missionary at each; but these are all on the coast, and are not able to exercise strict surveillance even over the coast alone. The immense field that lies behind this very thin and interrupted line is totally unprovided for. Great gratitude is due to this large-hearted mission for its quiet and laborious toil in the Possession. But to witness the good they have actually done only increases in one the wish that they should undertake a great deal more, even if this were done at the expense of reducing missionary effort elsewhere among the yellow races until our own aboriginal fellow-subjects are evangelised. The Government of the Possession will undoubtedly do all it can to facilitate the contemplated expansion mentioned above. But the small increase now thought of is indeed very far from meeting the case. Before long the directors will have to face the alternative of adding largely to the mission, or of contracting to leave a clear field to others. It is sincerely to be hoped that they will adopt the former course, and thus turn to account the great knowledge and experience they have accumulated.

Each one of the missionaries of the Society has busied himself with the study of the native language of his own particular district, and small books and translations have been made by them accordingly. The literary work of the Rev. Dr. W. G. Lawes, comprising an excellent grammar and dictionary of the Motu language, and a translation of the whole of the New Testament, is monumental. The former was of much use to the Government in the first years after annexation, and it possesses now, and always will have, a high scientific value.

* Not printed.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897–8.

The statistics of this mission are as below :—

When begun	1871	Number of scholars ...	900
English missionaries ...	9	Boys' day schools ...	60
Ordained native agents	103	Scholars—boys ...	2,600
Church members ...	1,600	Girls' day schools ...	20
Native adherents ...	10,000	Scholars—girls ...	1,000
Sunday schools ...	29	Local contributions ...	£288

The Sacred Heart Mission.

48. The Sacred Heart Mission has now been in the Possession over thirteen years. It was founded originally by the late Bishop Verjus, a wise, energetic, enthusiastic missionary. He outlined the work of the mission, and died when the work of initiation was still under way. Owing to the chronic ill-health of the head of the mission, its practical working devolved on Bishop Verjus and on his successor, the Rev. Dr. Genocchi, an excellent man for such a post. Bishop Verjus worked loyally with the Government at the time the tribes of Mekeo were being subdued to authority. Dr. Genocchi did very good service by lending his weight and influence to put an end to village burial, and by working hand in hand with all Government officers visiting Mekeo. His great learning, his breadth of mind, his devotion to duty, commanded universal respect, and his departure from the colony was much regretted. There have been and are some excellent missionaries among the fathers and brothers of this mission, notably Fathers Toublanc of Mou, Vitali of Inawi, and Boueilat of Vaipa. The first had unfortunately to leave on account of ill-health ; the other two still conduct very successful missions. The Sacred Heart voluntarily selected their present field of operations, and declined to occupy the north-east coast. Recently they have been examining the country further inland, and it is to be hoped they may extend their labours to the interior, where there is a magnificent and almost boundless field. The great probability is that the further inland they penetrate the more healthy they will find the country. Their reports state that Yule Island has proved more unhealthy than their stations on the mainland. Amongst the natives Yule Island has always been considered insalubrious. They have had a difficulty in teaching English, as it was not known to many of them to an extent that permitted of imparting it to others. Some boys were taken to Thursday Island to be educated there, but on their return it was found by the Government Agent that they had only acquired a few words, which they did not very well understand. They can, however, write very nicely in their own language, and their views seem to be somewhat widened. Archbishop Navarre, the head of the mission, has pledged himself that they will, as soon as possible, teach English in all their schools. They have built a number of substantial churches in their district. The Sacred Heart Mission in British New Guinea consists of—

1 Archbishop, 18 Priests, 16 Lay Brothers, 21 Sisters, 23 Churches and Chapels, 1,100 Scholars, 20 Stations, 12 native School-teachers.

The Wesleyan Mission.

49. The Wesleyan Mission, founded in 1891, was brought to the colony by the Rev. Dr. George Brown. It has had as its head ever since the Rev. W. E. Bromilow, who is happily endowed with the mental and physical qualities that are required for such a position. They have four missionaries, five sisters, and thirty-one teachers. The statistics of their mission are given in detail below. There is no doubt that nine or ten years ago the islanders were the most murderous of all the inhabitants of the Possession. Although they had by the time the mission was founded been made to some extent acquainted with the rough side of government, they were still so wild and untrustworthy that it was deemed prudent to follow the pioneers of the mission to Dobu a few days after they left Samarai. Two points have been characteristic of this mission from first to last—intense earnestness, and sound, practical, good sense. Their deep earnestness, which never approaches either bigotry or fanaticism, began to tell on the natives soon after work was begun. They have fully maintained without flagging the zeal and industry with which they began, with the result that there is perhaps no more successful mission than theirs. Mr. Bromilow has reduced Dobu and its neighbourhood to a decently-behaved community, who keep the Sabbath, go to school, attend church, and conduct themselves like an ordinary Christian parish. The immensity of the transformation can be appreciated only by one that has seen these tribes half-a-score of years ago and that visits them now.

Mr. Fellowes has begun a change that will be a very great improvement in the Kiriwina natives as citizens and subjects. The Tubetube mission is not less successful. There is to be some speedy expansion in this mission, on Goodenough Island, where a European missionary will take up permanent residence soon. And an industrial school is also in contemplation.

Excellent work has been accomplished by this mission in regard to translations. The Rev. W. E. Bromilow has printed and published in the Dobu language the four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles ; a small work on the sacraments, marriage, and burial ; a catechism and hymn book ; and a primer. This of itself represents an amount of labour that can only be appreciated by those that have given some attention to cognate work. The Dobuan language is undoubtedly the tongue best known and most used for general purposes in the D'Entrecasteaux Group ; and these books will certainly make it the literary native language of that part of the country.

Other translations have been made by the missionaries of this church to suit the natives among whom each of them is stationed, but those mentioned above are the most important.

The returns of this mission are given as follows :—

BRITISH NEW GUINEA DISTRICT OF WESLEYAN MISSION.

Circuits.	Churches.	Other Preaching Places.	Missionaries.	Lay Missionaries.	Missionary Sisters.	Native Ministers.	Catechists.	Teachers.	School Teachers.	Local Preachers.	Class Leaders.	English Members.	Native Members.	Native Members on Trial.	Communicants.	Sabbath Schools.	Sabbath School Teachers.	Sabbath School Scholars.	Day Schools.	Day School Scholars.	Catechumens.	Attendants on Public Worship.	Deaths (members).
Dobu ...	17	33	1	—	4	—	2	13	27	18	21	8	244	85	—	13	24	824	14	876	240	5,679	2
Panaieti	7	1	1	—	—	—	—	6	8	—	4	2	17	21	—	5	10	120	3	80	31	1,000	—
Tubetube	6	10	1	—	—	—	—	6	7	—	8	2	41	56	—	5	6	200	5	100	13	1,330	2
Kiriwina	3	25	1	—	1	—	1	6	3	—	2	3	12	—	—	1	2	50	1	120	15	3,500	—
Totals	33	69	4	—	5	—	3	31	45	18	35	15	314	162	—	24	42	1,194	23	1,176	299	11,509	4

AT DOBU.

Actual students in training—five of these are married 29
Girls on the station 30
Besides a dozen or so of boys for future acceptance as students.

The Anglican Mission.

50. The Anglican Mission was also established in 1891. It was for a long time paralysed by the death of the Rev. Albert MacLaren, and but for the courage and tenacity of the Rev. Copland King it would apparently have become practically extinct. That gentleman remained on the field steadily at work with very little support, making progress and keeping the mission afloat till the appointment of Bishop Stone-Wigg, who with additional assistance arrived there only a few months ago. The Bishop has already been able to expand the field of labour considerably by opening up new stations. It is greatly to be regretted that the force at the disposal of the Bishop is not sufficient to enable him to occupy the Ope, Mambare, and Gira districts now that the tribes of those parts are becoming quieter and settling down. It would probably be no exaggeration to say that the Bishop could do three times as much work were he provided with a good steam launch as he can do without one. The north-east coast is topographically well suited for locomotion of that kind. The effect of constant supervision over South Sea teachers is seen to great advantage in the Wesleyan Mission, which is well concentrated. Such concentration is hardly possible on the north-east; hence the great necessity for a steam launch to carry the head of the mission rapidly from station to station.

At the end of June, 1898, the staff of the Anglican Mission in New Guinea was as follows:—1 bishop, 2 priests, 5 laymen, 5 ladies, 8 South Sea Islanders.

Regular schools and services were being conducted at Awaiama, Taupota, Wamira, Wedau, Dogura, Boianai, and Guravara, and several of the staff were engaged in the establishment of a station at Collingwood Bay.

At all the schools under white teachers, English is being taught three or four times a week, conversationally, according to the "Gouin" method, and also in reading and writing. These schools are—Taupota, Wamira, Wedau, and Dogura.

Mr. Copland King has translated one of the gospels into the language spoken in the neighbourhood of the principal station, and he has compiled a suitable grammar and dictionary, besides doing other translations.

Lady Workers in the Missions.

51. The ladies connected with these several missions have performed work of the greatest importance. Mrs. Lawes has taught Papuan girls for more than twenty years, and can look back on a great record of beneficence. This lady, as long ago as

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1882, visited a part of the inland country, which was some years later the field of operation of a great expedition under a distinguished explorer. Mrs. Lawes has done, to say the least, as much as any other person has ever accomplished to clean and brighten Papuan homes. In my despatch of 2nd May it was mentioned that Mrs. Chalmers was conducting the classes at Saguana in the absence of Mr. Chalmers. The very successful teaching of Mrs. Pearse has several times been pointed out. The splendid results obtained by Mrs. Abel Your Lordship had lately an opportunity of seeing on the spot.

It is hardly necessary to say that the Mother Superior and the sisters of the Sacred Heart Mission devote themselves entirely to the duties of their own sphere. It is most regrettable that these ladies suffer so much from sickness. Several of them have died; many have suffered a great deal. Of course they bear all this without complaint, and are ever ready to die at their post. It is not possible to ignore this devotion to duty; none can fail to admire their constancy. But there is another way of looking at this question. The mortality and suffering among the sisters seem to be greater proportionately than they should be. The death of any one of them is a loss to their district, and everything that it is possible to do should be done to improve their sanitary surroundings, and to fit them physically to turn their powers and their zealous labour to the best advantage of that service to which they voluntarily devote themselves. This requires knowledge and practical experience. So far as physical causes are concerned, there should certainly not be greater mortality amongst the ladies of this mission than amongst those of other missions. They are all equally devoted to work; they all live very much in the same climate; but the ladies of the Sacred Heart Mission suffer most. So long as this is so there is room for improvement in the general management of the Sacred Heart Mission. A medical missionary added to this mission would undoubtedly save many valuable lives. Their high rate of mortality, both in male and in female workers, shows perfectly clearly that those responsible for the management of the mission are less well acquainted than are the other missions with the conditions of life that must be followed in the climate of British New Guinea.

The work of the sisters of the Anglican Mission was noticed in a recent despatch, and their effective teaching at Dogura and at Wamila was commented on.

The sisters have also done excellent work in the Wesleyan Mission, and are contributing in no small degree to remould the character of young girls in the Dobu district.

The great and striking influence of Mrs. Fellowes and the sisters on Kiriwina was noticed in a recent despatch as being very remarkable. It has been recognised by every one that has

had an opportunity of seeing the work carried on in the Dobu district that Mrs. Bromilow has been a powerful factor in the almost unprecedented success that has attended that mission. Mrs. Bromilow's work is being kept up in her absence by Mrs. Fletcher.

There is no doubt that the lady workers are of great use in mission work in the Possession. It is undeniable, however, that the climate is much more trying to them than to men. Consequently it is necessary that they should be better cared for in all that concerns sanitation. They require shorter hours and more nutritious, more easily digestible, food. They must be better guarded from exposure to the sun, to wet, and to cold winds. And they must have much more frequent leave of absence, and change to a cooler climate.

52. It has been a matter of extreme gratification to the Government of the Possession that during the ten years of its existence no missionary or teacher has met death by violence at the hands of the natives. This is specially a matter for congratulation, as it is well known to readers of mission literature that the readiness, amounting to desire, to undergo martyrdom was not wanting in at least one mission. This is a degree of zeal that is no doubt most admirable in the individual, but it is a constant source of anxiety to an Administration charged with establishing and maintaining peace among savage tribes. There have been numerous cases of misunderstandings between members of the missions and natives, but in no instance have these proceeded to the infliction of serious violence, although it has occasionally amounted to assault, and even to the robbery of certain teachers. The Wesleyans have been specially fortunate in having very few differences with natives. The pioneer mission, the London Missionary Society, had already a heavy death-roll through native violence before annexation, no fewer than some seven or eight teachers, with members of their family, having been killed. The risks they incurred in those days must have been very great in some places, where they were completely isolated amongst savage, greedy, easily offended tribes, at a time when there was no law in the land, and no force behind the missionary and teacher. To this was to be added unacquaintance on the part of the teachers with the habits, customs, and prejudices of the natives; while the latter are naturally impulsive, and could not possibly have understood or appreciated the motives of the teachers.

The lapse of time has steadily strengthened the conviction that mission labour is of immense value and importance in the Possession. It has been pointed out that the constabulary and the prisons are effective training institutions. This applies, however, almost exclusively to adults. The training and educating of children and of youth is practically entirely in the hands of the missions. The figures given above will give a fair idea of the

extent to which this very important task is attended to. The example of the regular and upright life of the missionary is of itself an object lesson of great significance. The humanity they practise in regard to the sick, the castaway, and the abandoned child; the moral force by which they exercise restraint over many bad characters, and their sympathy with the weak and suffering, are all softening and ameliorating influences that could not otherwise be supplied to the natives.

METEOROLOGICAL.

Rainfall.

53. The Rev. Copland King has furnished the following return of rainfall at Dogura Station for the half-year ended 30th June, 1898 :—

Summary for 1898.

	Inches.
January	12·99
February	9·12
March	8·66
April	7·89
May	2·55
June	3·37

It gives a rainfall of 44·38 inches, rain having fallen on ninety-eight days. The three wettest months are shown to be January, February, and March. The Dogura rainfall for the five years ending with June, 1898, has averaged 59 inches a year, as below :—

Rainfall at Dogura, for 5 years ended 30th June, 1898, by the Rev. Copland King :—

		Inches.
1893 ...	From 1 July to 31 December ...	35·11
1894 ...	„ 1 January to 31 December ...	77·14
1895 ...	„ 1 „ 31 „ ...	50·10
1896 ...	„ 1 „ 31 „ ...	43·49
1897 ...	„ 1 „ 31 „ ...	45·59
1898 ...	„ 1 „ 30 June ...	44·38

Average for 5 years, 59·16 inches.

At Port Moresby the rainfall for the year ended 30th June, 1898, was 37·70 inches. No rain fell in August, 1897, nor in June, 1898. In February, 1898, the rainfall registered was 15·79

inches—by far the largest for any one month. It fell in thirteen days. The average for the last four years has been 37·25 inches, and is summarised as under :—

	Inches.
1894–5	40·11
1895–6	32·15
1896–7	38·97
1897–8	37·70

At Daru the rainfall for the year ended 30th June, 1898, was 93·60 inches. Rain fell in every month during the year. In April, 1898, 24·11 inches were registered; and in December, 1897, 16·77 inches. The average for the last four years has been 85·31 inches, as follows :—

	Inches.
1894–5	116·52
1895–6	69·49
1896–7	61·62
1897–8	93·60

Temperature.

54. A table is attached* (Appendix Y), compiled from the observations taken at Port Moresby and Daru, which shows the highest, lowest, and average thermometer readings for each month of the year at 9 a.m., barometrical readings, general direction of the wind, &c., and also the maximum, minimum, and average temperatures for each month at those places. During the months of April, May, and June the minimum thermometer at Port Moresby was broken, and its readings for these months are consequently wanting. From this it appears that the highest monthly 9 o'clock a.m. temperature at Port Moresby was that of December, at 87·16 degrees. The lowest was for June, at 78·53 degrees. The average for the year was 82·24 degrees.

At Daru the highest monthly temperature was that of November, 83·09 degrees; and the lowest was that of July, 77·94 degrees. The average for the year was 80·83 degrees.

The highest monthly registration by the maximum thermometer at Port Moresby was for January, 91·65 degrees; the lowest by the same instrument stood at 82·67 degrees for June.

The average maximum monthly temperature for the year was 87·75 degrees.

* Not printed.

At Daru the highest shown by the maximum thermometer was in January, 89·45 degrees; and the lowest in July, 78·68 degrees. The average maximum monthly temperature at this station was 86·22 degrees.

The highest monthly reading by the minimum thermometer at Port Moresby was for December at 77·99 degrees; the lowest (the instrument having become broken in April) was for March at 70·90 degrees.

At Daru the highest and lowest monthly readings by the minimum thermometer were for November 76·93 degrees, and for July 74 degrees respectively. The average monthly minimum temperature was 75·12 degrees.

The highest temperature registered at Port Moresby in the shade, at 9 a.m., was 91 degrees on 14th and 15th February and 9th March; the highest registered at any time was 96 degrees on 9th December; the lowest obtained was 64 degrees on 12th March.

The highest temperature registered at Daru in the shade, at 9 a.m., was 88 degrees on the 13th April; the highest registered at any time was 93 degrees on the 7th January; the lowest obtained was 69 degrees on 13th September.

SANITARY.

55. The experience of the last ten years would seem to show that the climate of the Possession is not nearly so unhealthy as was at first supposed. The most frequent form of illness is probably fever; but a great many common and minor ailments are set down as fever quite erroneously. Natives suffer nearly as frequently from it as Europeans, but their attacks are somewhat less severe and of shorter duration. It is not much influenced by season in the low country; on the very high lands it seems to be absent altogether. It is never possible to say what part of the low country may be bad for fever or otherwise. It is very remarkable that again and again parties of twenty to thirty men, natives and Europeans, have spent several consecutive weeks in the low-lying mangrove and swampy country of the west, and have left it without a single sick man. On the other hand, of the same number landed in Cloudy Bay and camped on dry ground, and at a distance from swampy land, all save one man became ill of fever. Some of the worst cases have been contracted on dry, limestone country. Severe attacks are, however, not common. In about 90 per cent. of the cases that arise a single dose of quinine and antifebrine is all that is required. Those simple medicines are indeed almost a specific for New Guinea fever. But now and then obstinate cases, attended with violent sickness, or with great headache and delirium, are met

with. These are not easy to cure. Those cases that are peculiar by reason of renal disorder are generally amenable to proper treatment. The common proximate causes of fever are over-fatigue; sudden change of temperature, as in plunging frequently into cold water when heated; exposure to the fierce rays of the sun, to wet, or to cold winds. Safeguards against it are total abstinence, and the never-failing use of a muslin mosquito net at night.

The endemic diseases of leprosy and elephantiasis are not common, and are not of severe types. Deforming leprosy is rather rare. Elephantiasis growths and tumours never assume the great size they reach in the Pacific Islands, and hardly ever require surgical interference.

Chest diseases, as pneumonia and pleurisy, are sometimes, especially about the time of the changes of the seasons, common and severe among natives, but this does not to any noticeable extent affect Europeans.

The disease of "yaws" is universally endemic. But it is greatly milder than it is in the Pacific, and is, in fact, not much taken notice of. There does not even appear to be a native name for it in any dialect known. No European appears to have contracted this disease in the Possession.

The scaly ringworm, very prevalent in the west, and equally so in the east, is gradually closing in on the central district, which it will before long completely invade. It presents always exactly the same characters, though it has thus approached from opposite directions. It is easiest dealt with amongst the prisoners by sulphur fumigation.

Rheumatism of a subacute form occurs now and then in either natives or Europeans, but it is very seldom severe in type.

Beriberi has been seen in many places. It has several times caused a number of deaths among the prisoners. It is not easy to deal with, but fortunately it is not very common. There does not appear to be any contagious ophthalmia. Phthisis is rare. Only one case of cancer has been seen in a native, and that was in a man that had lived more like a European than a native for many years. There are none of the exanthematous diseases of Europe. Yellow fever, and enteric fever, tapeworm, and guineaworm, are unknown.

Dysentery is the most serious disease in the country now. A few years ago this malady was practically unknown. It has been imported in an epidemic and contagious form within the last three or four years, and, like all new diseases when first

introduced among an aboriginal people, it has raged with great severity in some places, causing many deaths. Among 132 prisoners at Port Moresby during the year nine deaths occurred, all save one from dysentery. It has been carried along the coast, but does not seem to have extended inland. Miners in certain districts, and the natives working with them, have occasionally become affected by a form of dysentery when sluicing—for example, in the cold water at the foot of Mount Scratchley. But that was caused simply as an effect of the cold, and never produced epidemic dysentery.

Itch was introduced some three or four years ago, and for a time it assumed serious proportions. Hundreds of natives were covered by it over the entire body. They soon discovered the potency of sulphur in this disease, but a great many natives have got rid of it that never had any sulphur to use. It is not uncommon yet among children. In all probability it is now, like dysentery, domesticated, and will never be exterminated.

Venereal diseases have several times been introduced, especially the less severe forms, though the worst kind has also been communicated to natives. Recently there has been a new introduction of it on Murua, where it has spread rapidly.

The effect of venereal diseases on Polynesians, especially from the Solomon and New Hebrides Islands, is often most disastrous. They do not seem, so far, to have assumed that malignant type amongst the Papuans. Dengue fever has been taken to the Possession, but it has not done any great harm. No form of ailment causes more petty inconvenience and worry than "scrub itch." It becomes, in some districts, a real torment. But it is greatly mitigated by the use of appropriate remedies.

The maladies mentioned above are the principal ones in the colony. They would rather point to its being a healthy tropical country than otherwise. The serious mortality that formerly prevailed amongst the teachers of the London Missionary Society, and that is, or has till quite lately been, so considerable in the case of the Sacred Heart Mission, is to be imputed to defective knowledge of the conditions of life in New Guinea and to the neglect to use suitable sanitary means and methods.

With the exercise of reasonable care there is no doubt that a healthy person may remain in the Possession for an indefinite time in active employment. For example, the oldest missionaries in the country, the Rev. Dr. Lawes and the Rev. James Chalmers, will, as regards physique, compare favourably with men of the same age in any country, and they have each performed a vast amount of work.

56. In the matter of regimen there are amongst Europeans in the Possession two distinct courses followed. In the one a fairly sufficient dietary is adopted, with an absolute exclusion of wine, beer, and all other forms of alcoholic stimulants whatever. In the other class a diet of inferior quality is taken, and it is supplemented by some stimulant containing probably a small quantity of alcohol in some form or other; or the stimulant is taken in addition to a diet that is sufficient without it. There cannot be the slightest doubt that the former is by far the better course, and that the latter is a mistake. In my experience people that are total abstainers in the colony enjoy better health and have a lower mortality than those that are not total abstainers. There is a widespread popular belief that some stimulant is required in the tropics, especially by people that have in a cooler climate been accustomed to it. This will not stand the test of experience. It is a matter that anyone not a total abstainer can prove for himself in a month. I have not known a missionary that was of intemperate habits; but it is easy to see that the missionary that has no alcoholic stimulant with his meals is healthier than he that has. The principle applies to all residents in the country, but it is easier to see in the case of the missionaries than among other classes, because their habits and practice are more regular and uniform. The missions that as a class are total abstainers are the healthier, and stand exposure better than others. The man that is a total abstainer bears very much better the onset of fever than the man that is not; and he is also less liable to other diseases. These stimulants are valuable in conditions of debility when they are administered in small quantity. They should be eschewed by healthy persons that wish to remain healthy in the climate of British New Guinea.

SS. "MERRIE ENGLAND" AND OTHER VESSELS.

57. During the year the steamer travelled 16,487 sea miles, at a consumption of one ton of coal for each 25·05 miles. The coal used was—For the main engines, 658 tons; for the launches, 22 tons; for the galley fires, 12 tons; total, 692 tons. The report of Lloyd's Surveyor on this vessel is attached hereto (Appendix HH).* From this it will be seen that the steamer is in first-class condition; indeed, in a great many ways this vessel is now much better fitted for work than when first received from England.

Up to September last the "Merrie England" was maintained at the joint expense of the Imperial Government and the contributing colonies.

* Not printed.

58. The four magisterial divisions have each a suitable vessel for the use of the Resident Magistrates, with a whaleboat and dingey. Those in the South-east, in the Eastern, and in the Central Divisions are sister vessels—schooners, of about twenty tons gross—built specially for the British New Guinea Government. They are all nearly new, and are in good condition and very suitable for the work required of them.

In the Western Division there is a stout lugger, of more shallow draught, which is found to be convenient on the flats and shoals of the western coast.

There is a spare vessel stationed at Port Moresby, suitable to take the place of any one of the four divisional vessels, whenever necessary on account of repairs.

The sailing vessels are all manned by Papuans exclusively. They represent the minimum of what is required for administrative purposes even with the present staff. They at the same time constitute the maximum of what can be maintained on the funds now at disposal. They are capable of keeping the Administration alive in each division without the steamer; but the latter is indispensable for anything approaching efficient administration. It would be quite impossible for the Administrator to visit, say, the north-east coast more than about once a year without the steamer, unless this were done to the complete neglect of other divisions. It would be impossible to deal promptly with any sudden emergency arising at a distance at any spot to be reached by sea. The Administration would lose greatly in force and power by the discontinuance of the steamer.

There is an excellent river launch, which in fine weather is fit to travel along the coast as well as to ascend rivers. In rough weather, like what prevails during the six or seven months of the south-east winds, this vessel could not face the seas of the south coast.

TRADE.

59. The total value of the trade of the colony for the year has been—Imports, £46,971; Exports, £49,850; together, £96,830. Under ordinary circumstances the volume of trade would have been considerably over £100,000; but it happened that large imports due in May did not arrive till July, with the result that supplies were exhausted in some stores, that there was thus wanting nearly two months' Customs revenue, and that a large quantity of produce was left unshipped for want of opportunity.

The trade of the Possession has progressed as below during the ten years :—

Total Trade for Ten Years.

——	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888-89	11,108	5,943	17,051
1889-90	16,104	6,455	22,559
1890-91	15,530	8,434	23,964
1891-92	23,755	11,289	35,044
1892-93	25,261	14,966	40,227
1893-94	28,501	14,952	43,453
1894-95	28,367	16,215	44,582
1895-96	34,521	19,401	53,922
1896-97	51,391	44,345	95,737
1897-98	46,971	49,859	96,830

The total imports and exports, as above, for the past ten years amount to £473,369, being an average annual trade of £47,336.

Imports.

60. The total imports through the three ports of entry of the colony have been as under for the last ten years :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888-89	6,016	5,019	—	11,108
1889-90	6,798	9,305	—	16,104
1890-91	7,455	8,075	—	15,530
1891-92	10,379	13,377	—	23,756
1892-93	13,173	12,088	—	25,261
1893-94	15,331	11,428	1,741	28,501
1894-95	12,079	14,036	2,253	28,367
1895-96	20,912	12,235	1,374	34,521
1896-97	32,813	17,521	1,056	51,392
1897-98	30,166	14,995	1,810	46,971

This gives an average annual value of imports of £28,144.

The chief items imported may be arranged under the following heads :—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£
Food-stuffs	5,400	7,124	4,463	6,037	6,252	7,181	8,062	9,328	20,752	17,246
Drapery and Clothing	1,735	1,582	1,712	2,838	3,414	3,002	2,901	3,149	5,758	3,898
Tobacco and Cigars ...	996	1,290	2,354	3,257	2,407	3,985	3,059	2,735	4,648	4,931
Hardware	927	1,123	1,535	2,677	2,828	3,162	3,440	4,844	7,718	2,192
Beverages	805	1,143	688	890	1,625	1,760	1,116	1,755	2,378	3,819
Building Materials ...	246	1,086	1,224	1,965	1,474	2,889	1,727	1,916	1,890	1,463
Other Articles ...	999	2,756	3,554	6,091	7,261	6,522	7,997	10,794	8,248	13,422
Total ... £	11,108	16,104	15,530	23,755	25,261	28,501	28,302	34,521	51,392	46,971

The imports for the year last past show a decrease as compared with the previous year of £4,421. The decrease on food-stuffs was £3,506 ; on drapery and clothing, £1,860 ; on hardware, £5,526 ; on building material, £427 ; but there was an increase on tobacco and cigars of £283 ; on beverages of £1,441 ; and on other articles, £5,174.

Exports.

61. The total value of exports, as entered at the Custom House, has been from the three ports of entry as below :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888–89	5,071	871	—	5,943
1889–90	5,458	997	—	6,455
1890–91	7,678	755	—	8,434
1891–92	8,099	3,190	—	11,289
1892–93	6,290	8,675	—	14,966
1893–94	9,555	3,542	1,854	14,952
1894–95	8,399	5,059	2,757	16,215
1895–96	10,600	8,326	475	19,401
1896–97	39,349	4,658	338	44,345
1897–98	41,404	7,266	1,189	49,859

The total exports for the past ten years amounted to £191,859, an average of £19,185 per annum.

The total amount of trade passing through Samarai during the three last years has, as shown above, been not far short of three times that of Port Moresby.

The advance in the value of exports over the previous year was £5,514.

The largest item of export was gold ; but the amount of this article as entered at the Custom House does not nearly represent the amount that was actually taken away. The quantity entered inwards through the Custom House at Cooktown from the Possession was 6,068 ounces ; at Sydney, 762 ounces.

In computing the value of gold exported it has been reckoned at £3 15*s.* an ounce. The annual export of gold declared at the Custom House has been—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Ounces	3,850	3,470	2,426	1,235	582
Value ... £	14,387	12,440	8,371	4,322	2,236

——	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Ounces	1,128	728	1,373	7,148	6,830
Value ... £	3,906	2,565	4,735	25,018	25,612

The total export of gold for the past ten years, as entered at the Customs, has been £103.592, being an average of £10,359 per annum.

The second export in point of value was pearl-shell. The quantity of this article exported annually has been—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Tons	15¾	12¼	3	18	37
Value ... £	1,510	1,050	85	542	1,623

——	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Tons	52	51	41	147½	104
Value ... £	3,366	3,005	2,371	6,004	8,468

Nearly the whole of this was obtained in the eastern waters of the Possession, the central and western waters producing 14 and 15 tons respectively.

The total value of pearl-shell exported during the past ten years amounted to £28,024, being an average of £2,802 per annum.

The copra exported consisted of 312 tons, valued at £2,425, being a decrease of 128 tons and £1,069 on the previous year. The export of this article has been—

Year.	Tons.	Valued at
		£
1888–89	76	550
1889–90	43	250
1890–91	198	1,433
1891–92	340	2,084
1892–93	194	1,159
1893–94	450	2,885
1894–95	427	2,830
1895–96	381	2,748
1896–97	440	3,494
1897–98	312	2,425

The total value of copra exported during the past ten years amounted to £19,858, being an average of £1,985 per annum.

The india-rubber exported consisted of 15 tons, valued at £3,683, being an increase of £210 on the previous year. The export of this article has been—

——	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Tons	½	3	16	15
Value ... £	27	810	3,472	3,683

The total value of india-rubber exported during the past four years amounted to £7,992.

There has been an increase of £617 in the declared value of sandalwood as compared with last year. The transactions in this industry have been as under :—

Year.	Tons.	Valued at.
		£
1891–92	42	290
1892–93	899	7,183
1893–94	321	1,896
1894–95	378	2,568
1895–96	525	4,035
1896–97	300	2,323
1897–98	304	2,940

The total value of sandalwood exported during the past seven years has been £21,235, or an average of £3,034 per annum.

There has been a revival in the bêche-de-mer industry, which shows an increase of £2,379 in the value exported, as compared with last year. The export of this article has been—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Tons	38⅓	70¼	64¼	49	21¾
Value ... £	2,178	4,682	5,030	3,401	1,573

Export of Bêche-de-mer—*continued.*

——	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Tons	28	21¼	17½	13	37
Value ... £	1,714	1,087	929	1,016	3,395

The total value of bêche-de-mer exported during the past ten years has been £25,005, being an average of £2,500 per annum.

Other items of export worthy of mention are—pearls, £500, showing a decrease of £480 on the previous year; turtle-shell, £294, showing a decrease of £225; birds, £710; natural history specimens, £945; sago, £408.

SHIPPING.

62. All shipping entered inwards or outwards was British, with the exception of one French steamer of 640 tons which called at Port Moresby and Samarai. The total number of vessels (exclusive of Government vessels) entered inwards from beyond the colony was 92, representing 13,642 tons; the total number cleared outwards for foreign ports was 76, representing 12,909 tons. The total foreign tonnage has been—

1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97	1897-98.
22,824 tons.	19,759 tons.	28,824 tons.	26,551 tons.

The entries inwards and outwards, coastwise, have been—

——	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Vessels	107	333	595	531
Tons	5,133	7,845	20,676	14,511

Postal.

63. The postal transactions for the year show, when compared with those of last year, a small decrease. The following is a tabulated statement for the last ten years :—

Article.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Letters received ...	2,366	3,166	2,664	4,393	4,079	6,280	6,279	7,130	11,148	9,604
Letters despatched ...	2,587	2,596	2,191	3,917	4,011	5,297	6,189	4,987	11,550	10,203
Packets received ...	93	111	142	45	230	157	129	246	181	249
Packets despatched ...	98	84	88	78	427	467	468	281	475	497
Newspapers received...	4,071	6,845	6,042	8,505	6,749	8,131	7,046	7,197	7,441	8,691
Newspapers despatched	574	590	468	756	276	240	776	828	1,635	2,135

The total number of letters, packets, and newspapers received and despatched during the past ten years was 194,169, being an average of 19,416 per annum.

Finance.

Revenue.

64. The amount of revenue collected in the Possession and paid into the Queensland Treasury during the year was £10,280, showing a decrease of £378 as compared with the previous year. It is compared below with the figures of former years :—

Source of Revenue.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	2,419 10 2	2,893 10 4	2,525 13 2	4,428 14 11	3,757 16 4
Gold Fields	187 17 0	20 15 0	23 0 0	24 0 0	23 17 0
Fees	1 18 0	4 10 0	4 3 0	10 14 0	157 8 5
Fines	25 13 6	41 10 0	46 5 0	34 0 0	24 10 0
Licenses	2 0 0	11 0 0	21 0 0	136 15 0	106 0 0
Miscellaneous...	42 13 2	44 8 0	53 18 2	149 12 6	535 4 9
Totals ... £	2,679 11 10	3,015 13 4	2,673 19 4	4,783 16 5	4,604 16 6

Revenue—*continued.*

Source of Revenue.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	5,069 5 2	4,646 11 4	6,000 13 0	9,350 19 11	9,207 17 10
Gold Fields	53 10 9	25 17 6	77 17 11	261 17 3	285 0 0
Fees ... ... }	136 19 4	105 3 7	57 16 4	415 16 9	212 15 0
Fines ... ... }					
Licenses	316 15 0	246 15 0	292 15 0	246 10 0	304 10 0
Miscellaneous	290 4 2	85 8 0	118 10 0	388 13 9	270 12 5
Totals ... £	5,866 14 5	5,109 15 5	6,547 12 3	10,663 17 8	10,280 15 3

The total revenue collected during the past ten years amounted to £56,226 12*s.* 5*d.*, being an average of £5,622 13*s.* 3*d.*

Expenditure.

65. The sum of £15,000 appropriated to the ordinary administrative services of the year was expended. Of a special vote of £1,000 for surveys there was disbursed during the year £565 14*s.* 8*d.* In addition to this there was paid £457 18*s.* 5*d.*, part of the unexpended vote for the first year of the Government services, towards the employment of an extra Government Agent in the Mambare district.

The expenditure is classified and compared as follows with that of previous years :—

Heads of Expenditure.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Civil List Salaries	2,633 19 7	3,300 0 0	3,290 12 8	3,300 0 0	3,300 0 0
Other Salaries	1,796 0 6	2,381 18 6	3,476 10 5	3,559 2 0	3,707 3 10
Vessels and Boats	2,747 11 4	2,564 3 0	2,938 16 3	2,993 6 5	1,600 8 3
Allowances	1,371 1 11	2,548 3 2	1,500 0 0	1,356 0 5	1,748 15 4
Buildings and Works	239 16 11	1,144 19 3	979 0 8	780 10 1	872 4 6
Agriculture	—	137 11 9	355 9 2	335 12 3	146 19 6
Mail Service	445 0 0	—	—	—	450 0 0
Miscellaneous...	1,536 1 0	2,898 9 8	2,459 10 10	2,675 8 10	3,174 8 7
Totals ... £	10,769 11 3	14,975 5 4	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0

Expenditure—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Civil List Salaries	3,300 0 0	3,248 11 3	3,186 8 6	3,195 11 3	3,175 0 0
Other Salaries	3,478 15 3	3,640 6 9	3,779 1 9	3,552 2 2	3,660 7 0
Vessels and Boats	1,308 2 9	1,214 3 1	1,587 8 7	1,258 18 5	1,588 11 11
Allowances	1,454 4 11	1,613 13 3	1,387 12 0	2,061 4 4	1,511 1 1
Buildings and Works	435 14 2	397 7 10	660 19 3	754 10 6	395 3 5
Agriculture	203 16 0	155 7 11	142 0 9	94 14 5	88 6 10
Mail Service	750 0 0	900 0 0	900 0 0	900 0 0	—
Miscellaneous...	4,069 6 11	3,830 9 11	3,356 9 2	4,411 18 9	4,572 1 7
Totals ... £	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0	16,228 19 10	14,990 11 10

Surveys, special vote ... ... £565 14*s.* 8*d.*

Extra Government Agent ... ... £437 18*s.* 5*d.*

LAND AND LAND CLAIMS.

66. Practically all claims to land acquired prior to annexation have been disposed of. One remains outstanding to allow the claimants, the present occupants, to obtain some right or title from the representatives of the original purchaser. This is perhaps a solitary example. The Crown Lands Ordinance provided for the re-hearing or reconsideration of any claim disallowed wholly or in part by the Administrator in Council. No appeal has been made demanding a re-hearing. Needless to say, the decision arrived at was not in all cases satisfactory to the claimant. The London Missionary Society and the Sacred Heart Mission have each considered themselves entitled to more land than was allowed to them under certain claims. It would have been greatly more satisfactory to the Government had they appealed, as the missions were inexperienced in such matters, and a re-hearing could not have failed to convince any reasonable person that they were liberally treated.

The small areas taken up for settlement by planting have almost always been alienated at the minimum price allowed by law. Some blocks in the township of Port Moresby were offered for sale by tender after extensive advertisement in Australia. The result was far from encouraging.

The several missions have acquired the land they need for religious purposes, under the Crown Lands Ordinance, at the original cost of the land to the Government.

This may probably average about 1*s.* an acre. It has been the desire of the Government to allow sufficient land to each mission station for growing its food. Unfortunately this is not always possible, because at times sufficient land is not procurable in the immediate vicinity of a mission station without hampering the village.

There has lately been some demand for land, more particularly for planting rubber trees. The position of this question is fully dealt with in the Appendices to this Report.

It is much to be regretted that it cannot be stated here what area of land has been granted on claims acquired prior to annexation. This may be possible in next year's Report. In Appendix X* are given particulars of all Crown grants issued up to June last.

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* Not printed.

They may be summarised as follows :—

Blocks.	Purposes.	A.	R.	P.
12	Agricultural	2,986	2	34
3	Pastoral	1,366	2	6
145	Religious	1,236	0	14
10	Cocoanut Planting	874	1	19
18	Residential	108	3	32
1	Business Site	0	3	0
1	Coaling Station	0	2	0
190		6,573	3	25

SCIENTIFIC.

67. The description* of a new species of fossil (petrified wood), by Mr. Shirley, is of considerable interest. The specimens were unearthed in cutting the road over the top of Mount Warirata.

68. The paper* on Totemism at Tubetube, by the Rev. J. T. Field, is of much importance. All over the east end of the Possession this strange institution has still very considerable power. It comes west as far as Mairu or Table Bay, when it disappears. It certainly extends a considerable way up the north-east coast. Up to the present time no trace of it has been discovered in the Mambare district, though many inquiries have been made on the subject. It seems probable it exists there, however, for many natives have cicatricial markings on the shoulders and back that would lead one to suppose they had something to do with totemism.

No trace of it has been met with in the Central district; but it crops up on the Fly River, though it has not in the west nearly the force it has in the east.

In the east the child inherits the totem of the mother in most places, if not everywhere; in the west the practice is more to inherit the totem from the father. This is quite in harmony with the higher position occupied by women in the east as compared with the west. Totemism in the west seem to be fast becoming extinct. The younger generation do not appear to know very much about it—generally nothing. It will long retain some power in the east end.

* Not printed.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897–8.

Mr. Hely's papers* on "Totemism" supply the means of instituting some comparison between eastern and western totemism.

69. In Appendix CC will be found a brief note* by the distinguished anthropologist, the Rev. Dr. Lorimer Fison, on Totemism in Fiji. From this it will be seen that in that country there are found only doubtful traces of it. Much time and care will be required to work out its position between Fiji and the Fly River. It may be remembered that it was not really known in the Possession till some years after annexation, so difficult is it to discover at times, and to investigate in a way that is trustworthy. I am indebted to the Rev. Dr. George Brown for some interesting notes* on Totemism in New Britain and Samoa. The data for the interpretation of the Kiriwina emblazoned shield have been furnished by the Rev. S. B. Fellowes. The same gentleman has supplied a note* on the centres of different industries in the Kiriwina group.

70. A number of geological specimens have been examined by Mr. Jack, the Government Geologist of Queensland, who has kindly furnished a report* on them. There is nothing very remarkable in them except the occurrence of strontium in the specimens from Kiriwina, a substance not previously met with in the Possession. Up to the present time no precious stones or gems have been found in the Possession. The probability is considerable that these exist there.

71. A number of botanical specimens from the colony have been examined by Mr. Bailey, Government Botanist of Queensland. Mr. Bailey's descriptions* will be found in Appendix DD.

A report* by Mr. W. Botting Hemsley on the Alpine plants collected on the top of the Owen Stanley Range during the two last years, and forwarded to Kew for examination, is contained in Appendix II.

It is much to be regretted that no report could be obtained on the British New Guinea collections in the Queensland Museum. They have now assumed large proportions, and are of great value, but they have not been described nor their full extent determined. They cannot be properly exhibited for want of space.

72. Much labour was given to extending and correcting the map of British New Guinea, the result of which will be seen upon reference to Appendix JJ,* where will be found a map, prepared under the direction of the Surveyor-General of Queensland, of the Eastern portion of the Possession. The map was drawn on a scale of two miles to an inch for reduction to four miles (the scale upon which it will eventually be published), but has been reduced to six miles to an inch to make it a convenient size for

* Not printed.

publication with this Report. A much-improved chart is now in course of preparation, in which many spots are fixed with sufficient accuracy for the present. A revision of the boundary line between Queensland and British New Guinea has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State, and the necessary Order in Council has been made. This awaits action in Queensland. The rectified boundary would secure to British New Guinea the fishing reefs of its tribes, and would provide the Possession with an anchorage in the west beyond Dauan.

GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.

73. A rough estimate has been made by officers at each station of the value of Government property in their charge. The figures are as follow :—

	£
In the South-eastern Division ...	1,509
Mambare	650
Eastern Division—no return—about	2,000
Central Division	12,216
Rigo Station	1,063
Western Division	1,045

This does not include the s.s. "Merrie England," nor the official collections in Brisbane. It, of course, does not include any Crown lands save those under cultivation by the Government.

PRESENT POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

74. There can be no doubt that the colony has now reached an important and critical stage of its existence ; that it is now in a position of great interest in many ways. Politically, it has arrived at the end of the period of ten years during which it was, under arrangement, jointly ruled by the Imperial Government and the contributing colonies. That stage of its existence has been before aught else one of pacification and of research. The establishment of some degree of supremacy on the part of the Government was a preliminary essential to acquiring any extensive and exact knowledge of the physical nature and capabilities of the country. The advance made even in peace making had to be executed with caution and patience, so as never to unduly imperil the prestige of the Government, which, had it during the first few years met with any serious reverse, might have lost all authority and control over other tribes than those it might have been compelled to retire before. Some of our greatest explorers have been routed and hotly pursued by natives on land or on water ; others have retired or passed them so swiftly as to evade

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collision so far as they were concerned. Others well held their ground, or had no misunderstanding of any kind with the tribes they came in contact with. The giving way of explorers before the natives carried to them personally, so long as they got clear away, no future results of a serious character, though it was sure to increase difficulties to the traveller that succeeded them. But it was entirely different with the Government. The explorer in a new district will almost always get through safely with ordinary prudence, if he is sufficiently liberal. Government parties, since annexation, have not been in a condition to be open handed, and they have always the serious and difficult task of arresting malefactors, and consequently are bound to inevitably come into collision with strong tribes, and under all circumstances they must maintain their ground. Consequently advance has had to be slow. The officers concerned have been fortunate, save in the sole instance of the late Mr. Green, who fell by treachery and not in open attack, and in no single instance have they suffered defeat in a fight. The authority of the Government has been firmly established over extensive areas, and a considerable extent of country has been roughly examined, but only so as to give general information as to its capabilities. This latter task can now be proceeded with deliberately and continuously. The colony is therefore in the condition of being ready for considerable agricultural developement. This is not possible without the intervention of Europeans. With the exception of cocoanuts, rubber from forest trees, and a few other articles, natives are not likely alone to ever add much to the exports of the colony. The time has come when agricultural development should be pushed in the Possession with as much perseverance as has been employed in forcing peace on the different hostile tribes to prepare for it. Opinions may very well differ as to how this is best to be done; but there cannot be any doubt that this industrial development through agriculture is now a pressing necessity, if British New Guinea is to be made a British colony in anything save the name.

There still remain in the interior large areas that are not pacified, but, with peace established up to the borders of these districts, it becomes easy to reduce them to control whenever this is necessary or can conveniently be carried out.

The conditions under which land has been offered for some years for settlement have been very easy, but they have failed to attract settlers. There will be no help for this condition of matters, except to grant such facilities and inducements as may attract settlement of the kind now required. There is already undoubtedly as much land known and available for occupation as, if utilised, would suffice to make the colony self-supporting. It can be occupied without risk or danger. A very considerable amount of local labour could be acquired. There are a few Europeans in the country that are well acquainted with the ways

of natives, that are acclimatised, and could with advantage be employed by those entering on agricultural enterprise on a large scale.

This form of development can take place extensively not only without in any way infringing on the rights of natives, which it has been the deliberate policy of the contributing colonies to fully respect, but even to their positive advantage in providing them with employment at home, and in helping to make them producers on their own account. At the present moment agricultural development is pra tically at a standstill on political considerations. The welfare and progress of the colony, the interests of the natives, the interests of Europeans, and the interests of all concerned, require that this state of matters should be amended as soon as possible, to put an end to loss of time, and to utilise expenditure to the best advantage.

The mining industry is better started than the agricultural, probably because for surface mining it requires much less capital. It has already been pointed out that it is considered desirable to offer some further encouragement to prospectors to examine new districts. In dealing with this question it has to be remembered that prospecting among the hills and mountains of the Possession is extremely arduous. The mineral country is of itself difficult to examine; but it is still more difficult in most cases to get there from the coast, and to obtain supplies once the payable mineral is found. As the Government of the Possession has at command no funds to expend as rewards to prospectors, they can be encouraged only by increasing the area of reward claims, and by other means of the same kind. Legislation in this direction has been and remains suspended till the Mining Bills now under consideration in Queensland become law. There is no room for doubt that the agricultural development of the country, by facilitating communication, and by supplying a basis from which to start and on which to fall back, will greatly add to the opening up of the mineral resources of the country, which are probably of much importance.

The fishing industry is capable of fuller development. This will probably proceed gradually by its own efforts.

Unless new industries, such as the manufacture of sago, the export of cane, and such like, are established, there does not seem to be room for any considerable addition to the number of small traders already in the Possession. Naturally, agricultural or mineral development must of necessity furnish an increased amount of freight and passenger traffic to the small vessels that ply along the coast. But, until the natives are taught to produce more, the number of Europeans now trading in native produce cannot be much augmented.

The fishing industry, on some scale or other, will be permanent. The agricultural expansion, so far as directed to cocoanut trees

and rubber-producing trees, will also be permanent; and the cultivation of such crops as tea, sugar, vanilla, tobacco, &c., would, if once begun, probably continue, as there would always be plenty of virgin land to fall back on.

The mining population, on the other hand, is not permanent, and the miner has shown no disposition to settle on the lands of the colony. As soon as a prospector becomes wealthy he leaves for Australia. Quartz-reef mining would, of course, be more abiding, and the surface mining may lead up to this. Agriculture, however, will be, in all likelihood, the largest and surest industry of the colony. It is by far the most difficult to start.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

75. At the end of the ten years the establishments of the Administration were as follows:—

Civil List.

Administrator	George Ruthven Le Hunte, C.M.G.
Private Secretary	
Chief Judicial Officer	F. P. Winter, C.M.G.
Government Secretary	Anthony Musgrave.

Other Officers.

Resident Magistrate, Central Division	Dr. J. A. Blayney.
" " Western Division	B. A. Hely.
" " Eastern Division	Hon. M. H. Moreton.
" " South-eastern Division	A. M. Campbell.
Government Agent, Rigo	A. E. English.
Government Agent, Mekeo, Acting ...	A. Giulianetti.
Assistant Magistrate, Acting, Mambare	Stewart Russel.
Commandant	Captain A. W. Butterworth.
Government Storekeeper	H. N. Chester.
Treasurer and Collector	D. Ballantine.
Sub-Collector, Acting	B. W. Bramell.
Sub-Collector, Samarai	A. H. Symonds.
Clerk, Samarai, temporary	A. McAlpine.
Sub-Collector, Daru	H. W. de Lange.
Head Gaoler and Overseer of Works ...	John MacDonald.
Government Printer	J. G. Allen.
Commander s.s. "Merrie England" ...	George A. H. Curtis, R.N.R.
First Engineer	W. Robertson.

Of these officers, Messrs. Winter, Musgrave, Hely, and Allen have been in office since annexation. With the exception of Mr. Hely they have not suffered from climate. They have been able to attend to their respective duties almost without break or interruption, and have performed excellent service. Mr. Moreton, Mr. English, Captain Butterworth, Mr. Ballantine, and Mr. Chester have been in the service for a period that is not much shorter. They and their brother officers that have served for a shorter term have not been more frequently incapacitated by illness than they might have been in almost any other country.

There has been every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the officers of the service. Their relations towards natives have not been so intimate as to cause loss of respect. They have gained the confidence of Europeans and natives alike by doing their duty justly, fairly, and considerately. The tone of the service as regards a high sense of duty, and a determination to do justice to all, leaves nothing to be desired.

76. The losses the service has sustained by death have been most serious.

The death of Mr. George Hunter occurred in 1890, under very painful circumstances.

The qualities of the late Mr. Denis Gleeson have already been alluded to in this Report, and the value of his services as first Head Gaoler commented upon. Mr. Gleeson died in 1893.

In Mr. Frank Lawes the Government lost in 1894 its greatest authority on native questions, a man of very sound judgment and of fine tact, thoroughly in sympathy with his work, capable, had he lived, of performing great and important services.

Mr. Charles Kowald, who created the Government station at Mekeo, lost his life in 1896 from the results of a most unfortunate accident. He had before his early decease contributed largely to pacify the Mekeo district, and had made his station one of the most beautiful residences in this part of the world.

Early in 1897, Mr. John Green, Government Agent and Assistant Magistrate in the Mambare district, was treacherously murdered, with Corporal Sedu and some other natives. Mr. Green lived long enough to prove that he was a man of much more than average capacity, persevering, and devoted to duty. His death is to be attributed to his intense desire to conciliate and to pacify by peaceful means the turbulent natives of his district.

Mr. John Meredith, who became Head Gaoler in 1894, died at Sudest in 1897, when in charge of the prisoners then stationed there. He had shown himself thoroughly well qualified for his responsible position, and he took the deepest interest in his work.

The loss of these officers would have seriously weakened a much larger service than that of British New Guinea. In two or three instances it for some time practically paralysed the departments more immediately concerned. Some of these men possessed knowledge and experience that a successor can acquire only with the lapse of a considerable period of time. In certain directions they had received a special training that was of use to them and of advantage to the service. To a considerable extent this had to be begun anew. It is surprising how well the service has stood these serious losses, a circumstance that can best be explained by the high sense of duty with which its officers are animated.

ASSISTANCE BY GOVERNMENT OF QUEENSLAND.

77. It is my duty, at the end of the ten years' period, to put on record my deep sense of the unvarying and consistent desire on the part of the three Prime Ministers of Queensland with whom I have been associated to promote the welfare, prosperity, and development of the Possession. Sir Samuel Griffith was mainly responsible for the arrangements under which the Administration has hitherto been carried on. Each of them—Mr. Morehead, Sir Samuel Griffith, and Sir Hugh Nelson—have, in succession, made everything else subservient to the just and proper treatment of the native race. This has all through been the first consideration. They have, in numerous ways, performed important services for British New Guinea, both directly and indirectly. They made the transaction of business easy ; and the benefit of their great experience in affairs has always been at the service of the Possession during a harmonious co-operation of nearly a decade. The two last have visited and reported officially on the colony.

All the numerous sketch maps of the colony prepared in recent years have been brought out under the supervision of Mr. McDowall, the Surveyor-General of Queensland. It is with his indispensable assistance that the new map of the Possession now in course of preparation is being got ready. The colony is under very great obligation to this officer, whose good services towards it have been frequently extended in matters beyond those specified above.

I have before this drawn attention to the good offices of Mr. Deshon, Auditor-General of Queensland. Owing to postal delays in forwarding payments and returning receipts, in consequence, also, of the inexperience of officers, Mr. Deshon has often had a difficult task to perform in auditing the accounts of the Possession. Mr. Deshon has uniformly endeavoured to teach where many in his position would have only found fault.

The repairing and refitting of the "Merrie England" has now, for a number of years, been carried out under the general superintendence of Captain Almond. The thoroughness with which this has been done is demonstrated by the first-rate condition of that vessel at the present day. His services have also, on many occasions, been willingly and courteously given to engage men and officers for the steamer.

Many other officers in the service of Queensland have rendered the Possession important services. The efficient assistance I have for a number of years received from Mr. H. S. Dutton cannot be overlooked here.

78. Finally, I have to thank Your Lordship for loyal and sympathetic co-operation during the time you have been Governor of Queensland. Your visit to the Possession, made at the cost of considerable time and personal inconvenience, cannot but be of advantage to the public service, and must add to the already deep interest taken by you in the affairs of the young colony.

I have, &c.,

WM. MACGREGOR.

His Excellency The Right Honourable
Lord Lamington, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Queensland.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
231	Barbados	"
232	Lagos	"
233	St. Vincent	"
234	Sierra Leone	"
235	Falkland Islands	"
236	Straits Settlements	"
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	"
240	St. Helena	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago	"
242	British Honduras	"
243	Malta	"
244	Fiji	"
245	Hong Kong	"
246	Leeward Islands	"
247	Grenada	"
248	Gibraltar	"
249	Gold Coast	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
251	Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	"
254	Ceylon	"
255	Basutoland	1897-98
256	Newfoundland	1898
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 292.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

REPORT FOR 1898-9.

(For Report for 1897–8, *see* No. 258.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June, 1900.

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No. 292.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

(For Report for 1897-8, *see* No. 258.)

ANNUAL REPORT.

Port Moresby,
25th October, 1899.

SIR,

AT the request of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, who arrived in the Possession only a short time before the close of the year now under report, I have the honour to submit the Eleventh Annual Report on British New Guinea, as required by section XXXVI. of the Royal Instructions of 8th June, 1888. The accounts of revenue and expenditure, with the exception of expenditure on the steamship "Merrie England," and the several statistic tables, relate to the whole year ending on the 30th June last. The accounts of the expenditure on "Merrie England" relate to the fifteen months ending on the 30th June last. The reports of administrative visits of inspection do not include those made by Sir William MacGregor prior to his leaving the Possession in September, 1898, because they are included in the last annual report.

LEGISLATION.

1. Ordinances No. 3 and No. 12 of 1898, and Ordinance No. 1 of 1899, are the Appropriation Ordinances for the year. They appropriated £15,000 for general services; £306 13*s.* 5*d.* for Government agencies; and £72 18*s.* 7*d.* for purchase and surveys of lands. For the Merrie England" £8,750 was appropriated for the fifteen months ending the 30th June, 1899. Whilst the Imperial grant to the "Merrie England" continued, the financial year of the steamer ended with the 30th March, and the appropriations were for such year. The financial year of the steamer is now concurrent with that of the Possession, and therefore the last appropriation made on her account was up to the 30th June last.

2. Ordinances Nos. IV., V., VI., and XIII. of 1898 are Supplementary Appropriation Ordinances ratifying past expenditure. Ordinance No. IV. deals with the year ending 30th June, 1896; Ordinance No. V. deals with the year ending 30th June, 1897;

and Ordinance No. XIII. with the year ending 30th June, 1898. Ordinance No. VI. deals with a special sum spent on account of the purchase and survey of lands during the year ending 30th June, 1898.

3. Ordinance No. II. of 1898, being "The Native Labour Ordinance of 1898," permits natives to be taken as seamen to any port in Australia, as to certain of the islands in the Pacific. It allows European missionaries to take natives to Australia, for the purpose of employing them in translating from English into New Guinea dialects. It provides for the form and nature of guarantees, and for the mode of enforcing them.

4. Ordinance No. VII. of 1898, being "The Fish Protection Ordinance of 1898," forbids, under penalty, the making use of dynamite, or other explosives, for the purpose of catching or destroying fish.

5. Ordinance No. VIII. of 1898, being "The Chinese Immigration Restriction Ordinance of 1898," makes the law of the Possession, in regard to the immigration of Chinese, the same as that of Queensland.

6. Ordinance No. IX. of 1898, being "The Past Marriages Ordinance of 1898," provides for removing doubts as to the validity of marriages solemnized in times past before missionaries or teachers of Christian missions. The parties, or the surviving party to such a marriage, may apply to the Administrator in Council to have such marriage declared a valid one; a judicial inquiry into the circumstances attending the marriage is then held; after this the Administrator in Council considers the matter, and, if he sees fit, an Order in Council declaring the marriage to have been valid from the date on which it was contracted is made.

7. Ordinance No. X. of 1898, being "The Public Health Ordinance of 1898," provides means for stopping the spread of infectious or contagious diseases. Part 1. relates to all diseases. Districts, ships, or persons may be isolated; and strong powers to enforce this isolation are conferred upon the Executive. Part II. relates to Vaccination. It provides for the appointment of paid, and honorary or unpaid, vaccinators. By order of the Administrator in Council, vaccination may be made compulsory, and may, if necessary, be effected by main force. Part III. makes provision for passing regulations, and also makes it penal to inoculate any person with variolous matter.

8. Ordinance No. XI. of 1898, being "The Public Hospitals Ordinance of 1898," is intended to provide for the establishment and maintenance of public hospitals. Trustees of private gifts or bequests to hospitals are empowered to transfer the trust property to the Government. The Government Secretary, in the absence of any officer specially appointed, is to be the trustee of

all hospital property. The treasurer is to have control of the funds of hospitals. The management of the affairs of a hospital is to be in the hands of a committee, appointed partly by the Government and partly by subscribers to the hospital.

9. A Regulation of the Native Regulation Board to prevent the careless use of fire was passed. It provides for the notice being given of the setting of hunting grounds on fire. It gives power to magistrates to insist upon village sites being kept clear of inflammable refuse. Penalties are prescribed for negligently setting country on fire, and for breaches of the enactments of the Regulation.

10. Certain prison rules amending the law with respect to the infliction of corporal punishment on convicts were made by the Administrator in Council. The amendments lessen the severity of the sentence that can be inflicted, and provide safeguards against its being inflicted in an unjustifiable manner.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

11. The following tables of cases dealt with by the several courts of the Possession have been prepared by the Chief Judicial Officer:—

MATTERS DEALT WITH JUDICIALLY DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1899.

CENTRAL COURT.

Criminal Jurisdiction.

Number of Persons Committed for Trial.	District from which Committed.	Persons Committed—how disposed of.
28	Central District	25 tried. 3 awaiting trial.
19	Eastern District	17 tried. 1 sent back to lower court. 1 committal quashed.
5	Western District	3 tried. 2 awaiting trial.
Total ... 52		

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1898–9.

The Central Court held twenty-two Criminal Sessions at the places and times, and with the results, undermentioned :—

Number of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	Mambare—7th July, 1898.		
2	1 wounding, 1 assault.	1 guilty of wounding, 1 guilty of assault.	1 three year's penal-servitude, 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Daru—13th August, 1898.		
1	Indecent assault ...	Guilty	six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—20th August, 1898.		
1	Inciting to murder	Guilty	One year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—14th September, 1898.		
1	Indecent assault ...	Guilty	One year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—1st October, 1898.		
1	Indecent assault ...	Guilty	Two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—3rd October, 1898.		
3	3 breaking gaol ...	3 guilty	3 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—25th October, 1898.		
2	2 murder	2 guilty	2 death.
	Port Moresby—21st November, 1898.		
1	manslaughter ...	Guilty	Two months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—19th December, 1898.		
2	2 assault	2 guilty	1 two months' and 1 four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Criminal Sessions—*continued.*

Number of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	Nivani—26th December, 1898.		
3	1 manslaughter, 2 wounding with intent to do bodily harm.	1 guilty manslaughter, 2 wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.	1 four months' and 2 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	Samarai—29th December, 1898.		
1	Murder	Guilty of manslaughter.	Two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Radawa, 20*th January*, 1899.		
1	Murder	Guilty of manslaughter.	Two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—4th to 6th March, 1899.		
10	8 murder, 1 arson, 1 assault.	8 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of arson. 1 guilty of assault.	2 five years' penal servitude, 5 two years, 1 one year, and 2 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—9th March, 1899.		
1	Murder	Guilty	Death.
	Daru—7th April, 1899.		
3	3 murder	3 guilty of manslaughter.	3 five years' penal servitude.
	Samarai—21st April, 1899.		
4	1 murder, 1 indecent assault, 2 carnally knowing girl under 12 years of age.	1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of indecent assault, 2 guilty of carnally knowing girl under 12 years of age.	1 three years' penal servitude, 1 one year's and 2 six months imprisonment with hard labour.
	Mambare—28th April, 1899.		
2	1 aiding prisoner to escape, 1 assault.	1 not guilty, 1 guilty of assault.	1 four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Criminal Sessions—*continued.*

Number of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	Samarai—13*th May*, 1899.		
2	1 assault, 1 carnally knowing girl under 12 years of age.	1 guilty of assault, 1 guilty of carnally knowing girl under 12 years of age.	1 three months' and 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour. Also fine £20 for assault in addition to three months.
	Milne Bay—19*th May*, 1899.		
1	Wounding	Not guilty	
	Nivani—22*nd May*, 1899.		
1	Indecent assault ...	Guilty	Two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Samarai—8*th June*, 1899.		
2	2 murder	2 guilty of manslaughter.	2 five years' pena servitude.
	Port Moresby—16*th June*, 1899.		
3	1 murder, 1 abortion, 1 breaking gaol.	1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of abortion, 1 guilty of breaking gaol.	1 three years' and 1 five years' penal servitude, and 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
Total 48			

Civil Business.

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings.
2	Suits.
2	Appeals from Warden's Court, Gira gold field.
35	Applications by Curator of Intestate Estates for administration.
1	Application by Curator of Intestate Estates for directions.
1	Appointment of guardian.
41	

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Indictable Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Inquiry.
Central District	34	20 murder	28 committed. 6 discharged.
		1 inciting to murder	
		3 assault	
		5 breaking gaol ...	
		2 indecent assault	
		1 manslaughter ...	
		1 arson	
		1 abortion ...	
Eastern District	29	13 murder	19 committed. 10 discharged.
		4 assault	
		2 wounding ...	
		3 indecent assault	
		3 manslaughter ...	
		3 carnally knowing girl under 12.	
		1 aiding prisoner to escape.	
Western District	5	4 murder	5 committed.
		1 rape	
Tota' ...	68		

Summary Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central	66	2 breach of Constabulary Ordinance.	1 convicted, 1 discharged.
		23 breach of Native Labour Ordinance.	21 convicted, 2 discharged.
		8 Impersonating Constable.	4 convicted, 4 discharged.
		14 larceny	11 convicted, 3 discharged.
		18 assault	13 convicted, 5 discharged.
		1 breach of Prisons Ordinance.	1 discharged.

Summary Offences Jurisdiction—continued.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Eastern... ...	119	41 larceny	36 convicted, 5 discharged.
		50 assault	47 convicted, 3 discharged.
		12 breach of Native Labour Ordinance.	12 convicted.
		5 breach of Prisons Ordinance.	5 convicted.
		2 threatening language.	1 convicted, 1 discharged.
		1 drunk and disorderly.	1 discharged.
		2 breaking gaol ...	2 convicted.
		2 breach of Constabulary Ordinance.	2 convicted.
		1 breach of Crown Servants Ordinance.	1 convicted.
		1 breach of Merchant Shipping Acts.	1 convicted.
		2 obscene language	2 convicted.
Western ...	20	14 assault	12 convicted, 2 discharged.
		5 larceny	5 convicted.
		1 breach of Labour Ordinance.	1 convicted.
Total ...	205		

Civil Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Action.	Result of Action.
Central... ...	Nil.		
Eastern... ...	7	Debt	5 verdict for plaintiff.
			2 verdict for defendant.
Western ...	Nil.		
Total ...	7		

NATIVE MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

Criminal Jurisdiction (Forbidden Acts).

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central)	143	42 assault	42 convicted.
		2 perjury	2 convicted.
		4 spreading lying reports.	4 convicted.
		25 larceny	25 convicted.
		9 injuries to property.	9 convicted.
		2 sorcery	2 convicted.
		20 breach of Carriers Regulation.	20 convicted.
		1 breach of Prisons Regulation.	1 convicted.
		15 adultery ...	9 convicted, 6 discharged.
		9 breach of Roads Regulation.	9 convicted.
		6 breach of Burials Regulation.	6 convicted.
		4 extortion ...	3 convicted, 1 discharged.
		1 threatening language.	1 convicted.
		3 disobeying magistrates' orders.	3 convicted.
No. 3 (Eastern)	46	25 adultery... ...	20 convicted, 5 discharged.
		7 breach of Burials Regulation.	5 convicted, 2 discharged.
		6 sorcery	4 convicted, 2 discharged.
		3 spreading lying reports.	2 convicted, 1 discharged.
		2 larceny	2 convicted.
		2 breach of Roads Regulation.	2 convicted.
		1 extortion ...	1 convicted.
No. 1 (Western)	25	20 adultery... ...	15 convicted, 5 discharged.
		1 sorcery	1 convicted.
		3 assault	1 convicted, 2 discharged.
		1 spreading lying reports.	1 convicted.
Total ...	214		

Civil Jurisdiction (Civil Claims).

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Claim.	Result of Action.
Central	Nil.		
Eastern... ...	Nil.		
Western ...	Nil.		

Total Number of Criminal Proceedings.

In Central Court	52
In Courts of Petty Sessions (exclusive of 52 cases sent up to Central Court) ...	221
In Native Magistrates' Courts	214
In all Courts	487

Total Number of Civil Proceedings.

In Central Court	41
In Courts of Petty Sessions	7
In Native Magistrates' Courts	—
In all Courts	48

12. During the year three persons, all aboriginals, were sentenced to death, but the sentence was in each instance commuted to one of penal servitude. The total number of cases, civil and criminal, brought before the courts during the past five years has been:—

	1898–99.	1897–98.	1896–97.	1895–96.	1894–95.
Criminal ...	487	479	420	445	327
Civil	48	21	39	26	35
Total ...	535	500	459	471	362

VISITS OF INSPECTION.

13. On the 22nd December a start was made for the east, and Samarai was reached on the night of the 23rd. The most severe gale that there is any remembrance of in the Eastern District had blown for several days in the beginning of the month throughout a large portion of the district. A number of small craft had been lost, but fortunately in most cases no lives had been. The exception was the fate of the schooner "Ellangowan," which disappeared with Mr. Godet and a companion on board her; but whether the vessel was knocked to pieces on a reef or foundered at sea is not known. The islands of the D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago suffered most from the wind and the rain, and certain of the native inhabitants were killed by landslips and by falling trees.

The steamer went from Samarai to Nivani to look after the Government ketch, "Murua" which was reported to have sunk in the gale. She was found to be afloat, but badly damaged, and was towed to Samarai for repairs.

From Samarai the steamer proceeded to the Mambare, calling at several places on the way. A visit was paid to Tamata Station. It was evident from the numbers of new houses and fresh clearings on the banks of the river that the natives were settling down again. Several natives who had been under arrest at Port Moresby were restored to their homes. The reports as to the health of Europeans and native carriers at the Mambare were very unfavourable. A fight had taken place between the Acting Resident Magistrate's party and some tribes on the upper Api River, in which the latter were beaten. A persistent rumour had gone abroad that the party had been driven back by the natives, and had had to leave their stores behind them, but this was quite incorrect. The Gira people had been talking in a somewhat vaunting and defiant manner, but had not attempted to do anything, so no notice was taken of their bluster.

After leaving Mambare a stay of a day was made at the Api, and a visit was paid to some hill villages, the inhabitants of which had recently been fighting the coast people. All the villages except one were deserted, but at this last one the police captured two women. After a talk with these women a return was made to the ship. The visit led to peace being concluded between the hill and the coast people.

The next stoppage was at Collingwood Bay. Here Mr. Moreton, the Resident Magistrate of the Eastern District, joined the party. He had brought a number of natives from Taupala to act as carriers in an inland trip. Some months previously a war party of the Dori tribe, who live some distance inland in the valley of the Musa River, or in the valley of the Adaua affluent of that river, had attacked and killed some sixteen of the men of Maisina, a large village in Collingwood Bay. Owing to the lack of interpreters, and the suspiciousness of the Maisina people,

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it was difficult at the time to ascertain exactly what had taken place, except that the Dori natives were in the wrong. An expedition started, therefore, to visit the Dori villages. From the outset the prospects of getting there were doubtful. Time was limited, and the party were dependent on Maisina guides, whose knowledge of the way was questionable, and to a certain extent on Maisina carriers. The Maisina allies seemed to be as much afraid of meeting the enemy as they were mistrustful of the intentions of the Government party, and it ended in their all deserting at the first camp. The party went on for two days longer, travelling by compass, but did not come across any signs of natives. The most noteworthy objects met with were some remarkably wide clearings in the dense forest, which had evidently been made by exceptional torrents of water that had swept down from the lofty Goropo Range. A great deal of fallen timber was met with, which apparently had been blown down in the gale already alluded to. The expedition had one good result, in that it had the effect of causing the natives of Collingwood Bay, who had always been decidedly unruly, to alter their demeanour. It may be mentioned here that since the expedition took place the Dori tribe have sent friendly messages to Dr. Vaughan, who has lately started a plantation some forty miles up the Musa River.

At Collingwood Bay, a large quantity of building materials belonging to the Anglican Mission was taken on board, and landed at the new station at Cape Vogel. From this point the steamer went to one or two places in Goodenough Bay, and returned to Samarai, and from there to Port Moresby.

14. On the 28th March a short journey to the West was begun. After calling at Yule Island to fetch up mails the steamer went on and anchored on the following day, a little after dark, off Kerema. Next morning a visit was paid to Kerema. A little after midday Bailala was reached. A short time was spent at Bailala, and then the ship went to Orokolo, which was inspected about dusk. During the night the voyage was continued, and the Fly River was reached in the forenoon of the next day. One of the villages on Kiwai Island was visited, but the grounding of the steamer on a sandbank close to Kiwai, cut short the visiting, as it was necessary that the launch and boats should be in attendance on the steamer when the tide began to rise. The steamer was floated off a few hours after sundown, and after some careful navigation over shallow flats was again got into water of a safe depth, and anchored. The channel leading through the vast extent of shoals that beset the entrance to the river appears to change very much in position and in depth. Calling on her way at Bramble Bay, the steamer went on to Daru. The Resident Magistrate, Mr. Hely, was away in Thursday Island, laid up by serious illness, and Mr. Wood was in charge. The jetty had been extended, and the houses, gardens, and grounds were in good order. The steamer went over to Thursday Island and

returned to Daru, where in the meanwhile a number of the chief and village constables had arrived for the purpose of welcoming the Lieutenant-Governor. Leaving Daru the steamer paid a visit to Hall Sound. A day was spent here in visiting the Sacred Heart Mission and the village of Chiria, on Yule Island, and the London Missionary Society's Station at Delena, and the village of Pokama. The steamer then returned to Port Moresby, the village of Kido being called at on the way.

15. On 14th April the Lieutenant-Governor and party left Port Moresby for a trip to the east. The first place called at was Kapa Kapa. The station and the London Missionary Society's establishment were visited, as also several of the neighbouring inland villages. The heavy rains had swept away one of the bridges. From Kapa Kapa the steamer went on to Aroma, at which place part of the afternoon and the night was spent in the native villages and at the teacher's station. On the succeeding day Dedere was reached, at which place Mr. Anderson's cocoanut plantation was inspected. Next day the vessel anchored at Port Glasgow, having on the way called at Toulon Island. On the ensuing day a visit was made to the London Mission Station at Isudau, and Samarai was reached. From Samarai the "Merrie England" went to the Mambare, picking up the Bishop of New Guinea at Wedau. On the way up the north-east coast Taupota, Cape Vogel, and Porlock Harbour were touched at. On arrival at the Mambare the station at Tamata was visited, and various questions affecting the goldfield were discussed by the Lieutenant-Governor with a deputation of miners. Owing to the launchman in charge of the launch "Ruby" which had been stationed at the Mambare being very ill, and to the launch needing repairs, it became necessary to take her to Samarai.

After leaving the Mambare the steamer proceeded towards Oro Bay. Some months previously a slight skirmish had taken place here between a Government party from the Mambare Station and the natives of a village in the bay. A woman had been made prisoner on this occasion, and taken to the station. It was considered desirable to return her to her people. When Oro Bay was reached the inhabitants ran away, and it was at the same time ascertained, with difficulty owing to poor interpreters, that the woman belonged to a village some distance up the coast, and was afraid of being put ashore at Oro Bay. The steamer anchored at Oro Bay, and early next morning proceeded to the Musa River. An early start was made up the Musa, and the party camped on the bank of the river that night, the principal object of the journey being to inspect the land lately selected on the river by Dr. Vaughan, supposed to be some twenty-five miles up the river: only a two days' trip was provided for. Dr. Vaughan, however, had discovered that when the river was much flooded the land that he had contemplated selecting was under water, and hence he had to proceed some fifteen miles further up before coming on land that was not liable to be submerged in the floods.

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On the ensuing day the party went on up the river. One or two native villages and some natives in canoes were passed. The women ran away at first, but the men were quite friendly, and displayed no mistrust of the party. They had been working for Dr. Vaughan. In the absence of an interpreter, it was impossible to hold much intercourse with them. At midday the engine of the launch got out of order, and as up till then no signs of European settlement had been seen it was considered advisable to return as soon as the launch had been repaired. Dr. Vaughan's settlement, it appears, was a few miles further up the river.

After leaving the Musa the steamer went back towards the Mambare. The village of the woman captured at Oro Bay was found. Her people fled to the bush, but at length were induced to come back. They seemed much pleased at seeing the woman again, and became very friendly with the Government party. A course was then steered for the Opi, off the mouth of which the ship anchored some little time after dark. On the following day, whilst the steamer went on to the Mambare to bring the launch "Ruby," a trip for the day was made in the boats up the Opi River. The Opi with its stable banks clothed in tropical vegetation, and its gently flowing stream of clear brown-tinted water in which many aquatic plants find a home, presents a contrast to its neighbour, the Mambare, whose rapid earth-laden current is constantly flooded by affluents that come down from the rain-swept mountains.

After leaving the Opi the next stoppage was at Port Hennessy. On the following day, while the steamer went across to Philips' Harbour, the launch ran round Collingwood Bay. The Anglican Mission Station at Wanigela and the village of Maisina were visited. The natives as a whole were less mistrustful than on former occasions. From Philips' Harbour the steamer proceeded to Mukawa, and next day to Wedau. At Wedau Mr. Nielsen, the launchman, who had been in charge of the "Ruby" at the Mambare, was buried, the illness that had attacked him on the Mambare having terminated fatally. He had been ten years in the service, and was a trustworthy, hardworking man. After leaving Wedau a day was spent in Milne Bay, and the villages of Mita, Maiwana, and Wagawaga were visited. The steamer then returned to Samarai.

At Milne Bay and at Samarai it was ascertained that a fight had recently taken place between two miners and the inhabitants of the village of Kamudi, some miles inland from the head of Milne Bay, which had resulted in one of the miners and the chief of the village being wounded. The engineers of the steamer being busy repairing the launch "Ruby," the Lieutenant-Governor and a party proceeded to Milne Bay in the ship's launch and boats. They then went inland to the village in question, where the man alleged to have wounded the miner was handed over by his people. The steamer called for the party

in Milne Bay, and then proceeded to Teste Island, which was visited. The next day Nivani was reached, and on the following day Panamara. Whilst at Nivani the islands of Panaieti and Paropompom were inspected. After leaving Panamara the steamer went to Griffin Point in Sudest Island, and after that place had been visited she steamed round to Pantava. An attempt to visit the gold mine had to be given up, as it was found impossible to get the boats into the Hula River, and time did not permit of another way to the mine being taken. Rossel Island was reached on the following afternoon, and a stay of a day was made there. Several villages were inspected. From Rossel a course was steered to Misima, and Segara, in that island, reached after dark. Woodlark Island was visited on the 29th and 30th May. The first day was spent in a trip to the gold mine at Kulamadau, and on the following day Suloga Bay was called at. The steamer then passed round the eastern end of Woodlark Island, and ran in the night to the Trobriands. A trip through the Kiriwina and adjoining districts, lasting a couple of days, was made, the party camping for the night at the village of the principal chief, Enamakana. Very large fields of yams and taro were passed through. Hughes' Bay, in Fergusson Island, was the next anchorage. On the following day Goodenough Island was visited, and then the vessel proceeded to Dobu, at which place she stayed for a day. Mr. Bromilow was taken on board, and the island of Ubuya, close to Normanby Island, was visited and inspected. The Wesleyan Mission propose to establish a training college on this island if it can be obtained. A trip to Seymour Bay, in Fergusson Island, and a visit to a small valley containing sulphur deposits, hot springs, and banks of burning sulphur, occupied the next day. Burns, Philp, and Co. are making arrangements to work these sulphur deposits.

From Seymour Bay the steamer went to Wedau, and then to Samarai. On the way back from Samarai to Port Moresby, Hula was called at, and a trip to Kalo and other inland villages was undertaken, and Kapa Kapa was touched at.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS.

Central Division.

16. The Resident Magistrate, who is also the Chief Medical Officer, reports that the past year compares very favourably with the previous one in regard to the health of Europeans and natives in the Central District. An example is given of the carelessness or ignorance of the natives, in the matter of their drinking water. The details furnished in the report would be applicable to many villages. Some of the native mission teachers are not much better than the rest of their countrymen in this respect. The evils that follow on wearing clothes are also alluded to. Apparently one of the most irksome duties that can be imposed on the average native is to compel him to wash his clothes.

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In August, the Resident Magistrate made two visits to the Astrolabe. The first visit was undertaken for the purpose of traversing the Laloki River, which rises in that range. The second was due to a report that some natives had attacked the men employed on Burns, Philp, and Co.'s plantation. Although this was a most unlikely thing to happen, the report was so circumstantial that a party at once went up. When they reached the scene of the supposed onslaught, they found that, as is pretty often the case, there was not a word of truth in the report.

From October to February, the Resident Magistrate acted as Treasurer, Collector of Customs, &c., during the absence of Mr. Ballantine on leave.

The Resident Magistrate draws attention to the beneficial influence of a returned prisoner, in the Opau district, in the Gulf of Papua. Fortunately, being sent to gaol does generally have a good effect on the Papuan. The ex-prisoner referred to, who was little more than a lad when he was sentenced to three years for manslaughter, had perhaps rather a special training. He was one of a party of twenty prisoners that went with the late Mr. Shanahan to the Mambare, when that gentleman took charge of the district after the death of Mr. Green. The natives of the country surrounding the station were then, and for some time thereafter, hostile to the Government. Hence it was a case of everyone connected with the station against the natives of the district. The prisoners who had accompanied Mr. Shanahan frequently went with the police in expeditions to arrest Mambare culprits, and became staunch Government supporters. Raiva, the youth referred to by the Resident Magistrate, was subsequently allowed to join the constabulary, but not being very bright at his duties was returned to his home.

Two cases against teachers of the London Missionary Society are mentioned by the Resident Magistrate. One was that of a South Sea Island teacher, who was convicted of arson. This is the first time that a teacher has been convicted of a serious offence, and in this instance it was a case of loss of temper. The other case had its origin in a dispute about dancing. Interfering with native dancing is rather a weak point with some teachers, who do not quite understand the distinction between actions that are contrary to law and actions that are contrary to the views of their mission.

As stated in the Magistrate's report, there are eighty-six village constables in the district. They have to be reprimanded, and even dismissed at times, but on the whole they are exceedingly useful. Some have held their posts for years, and are as useful now as when they were appointed. But the want of perseverance causes the native constable at times to deteriorate. It is quite possible, also, that the zealous village constable rouses illwill, in the end, against himself.

In April and May, the Resident Magistrate, in his capacity of Government medical officer, accompanied the Lieutenant-Governor on a trip to the eastward, and was thus enabled to inquire into and report upon sanitary matters at Samarai and the Mambare. He returned from Samarai to Port Moresby in the ketch belonging to the Central District. On his way up the coast he obtained details of the massacre of a coast tribe by some mountaineers, and of an attack by inland people on coast natives. Both of these affairs took place at the back of Cloudy Bay, which is about midway between Port Moresby and Samarai.

On his last trip towards the west the Resident Magistrate heard of the plundering of a party of missioners of the Sacred Heart by a mountain tribe that they were visiting. No violence was offered to the persons of the Fathers. The district is one that has never yet been visited by a Government party. For a small unarmed expedition to venture into districts like the one in question, with a supply of articles that are very valuable in the eyes of natives, is rather a hazardous proceeding. As a rule the inland people are more honest than the coast people; but honesty, or at least the practice of it, is liable to have its limits when there is no fear of consequences to restrain cupidity.

17. The report of the Government Agent for the Rigo District does not differ much in tenor from that of last year. The natives in certain respects are improving. They are industrious, so far as it is necessary to be after their fashion; but except in this respect, they are indolent. Offences have been fewer in number. The taking up arms by the Kiraipo people is an incident that would certainly not have been expected; but their doing so was principally due to the influence of their old chief, a man who had acquired authority in past times, and who is too advanced in years to understand the new order of things. A few serious crimes have taken place. Some of the small hill tribes and the rude coast people cling to their old customs. There exist, and must exist for some time amongst them, the memories of old feuds and what they deem wrongs. Now and again these old ideas will be too strong for some of them, and will lead to homicidal acts. It is doubtful whether those who would not commit the acts themselves consider them in the least discreditable. A village may be vexed at the conduct of some of its members in slaying a man of another village, because they know that it will mean trouble with the Government; but they may nevertheless feel bound by ancient custom to accord these homicides some honours. Fortunately these honours and certain ceremonies that the homicide has to pass through, and certain ornaments that he has to wear, generally lead to his detection.

The Government Agent states that the natives begin to recognise the benefit of roads—that is to say, of fairly broad cleared paths, and now keep their roads in order. Probably a more exact statement would be that the natives now consider that the

advantage to be derived from cleared paths outweighs the trouble of keeping them cleared. To put oneself to a little trouble now in order to save oneself much trouble in the future is a view of matters which, as a rule, does not commend itself to the native mind.

Reference is made to encroachments by coast natives on the territory of their more inland neighbours. This probably arises from the fact that the coast tribes were at first interlopers who came from some other locality. The inland people in the first instance did not object to them settling in their districts, and allowed them to use lands which they themselves did not need. The constantly increasing security of life and property has led, in the first instance, to an augmentation in the population, and, even reckoned proportionally, to a larger extent of land being cultivated. Hence in some places where unused garden land was fairly plentiful it is now becoming scarce. That the more advanced coast natives obtain advantages by threatening their neighbours with the wrath of the Government is probable enough. Natives in some respects are very credulous. It might be thought that, at least in the settled districts, the native would now clearly understand that the Government does not use its power to support the unjust acts of a native constable or a friendly native. But they do not seem to understand it. The credulity of the native in this matter may be partly due to the fact that, although he does perceive that the Government act justly, he cannot conceive why they should.

18. The Government Agent for the Mekeo district gives an account of his work since the 15th of September, the date when he took charge of the district. The natives of the district have during the last few years suffered much from chest diseases. Judging, however, by the nature of the country and the physique of the inhabitants, the Maiva and Kivori districts, to which the Government Agent refers, are healthier than the low lands through which the St. Joseph flows. The Government Agent mentions that in April last the St. Joseph was so high that the water covered the gaol floor. As the station is situate almost half a mile from the banks of the river, and on comparatively high land, a large portion of the low country must have been flooded.

The sandalwood camps referred to in the report are situated in the country between the St. Joseph and Gally Reach. As the trees near the coast get cut down, the timber-getters have to proceed further inland. The distance from the sea at which the timber is now got precludes the use of carriers, and necessitates the employment of drays drawn by horses. But a certain number of natives are employed in procuring the wood.

The most important trip undertaken by the Government Agent was that to the West, as far as Maipua, in the beginning of the year. As a rule, the Resident Magistrate, accompanied by the

Government Agent, makes the voyage. This year Dr. Blayney had to stay in port, and so Mr. Guilianetti went by himself. It is generally made during the last month of the old and the first two months of the new year, so as to avoid as much as possible the south-east and north-west monsoons. Either of these winds soon raises a heavy surf along the shallow unsheltered coastline; in fact, during the south-east monsoon the long rolling breakers make it too dangerous for small craft. All the coast and a few of the inland coastal villages were visited. At Karama a singular form of oath, described in the report was noticed. This is the first known instance of a native form of oath. It apparently is but rarely employed, or else natives in previous judicial proceedings had reasons for not making use of it.

An amusing instance of the importance that the chief village constable of Motu Motu attached to his office is related by the Government Agent. The individual in question, however, was a man of some importance before he became a constable. He has been a very useful man to the Government.

The Mafulu expedition alluded to at the end of the report has since been carried out by the Resident Magistrate. This tribe, living in the mountains on the south of St. Joseph, where it runs east and west, had on more than one occasion plundered some parties of Europeans. Their last exploit had been to rob a party composed of several of the Europeans of the Sacred Heart, of their effects. At the time the party was on its way inland to examine the country, and make friends with the people. To do the hill men justice, they are as a rule less addicted to theft than the coast natives are, or, properly speaking, were before they were made to respect the law.

The Mekeo district proper, which comprises the flat portion of the valley of the St. Joseph, has been well behaved during the year. In August last a fight took place between people from different villages, but the results were not serious. The district is a fertile one, and there is abundance of land for all native requirements. The cultivation at the station itself is ample enough to more than supply all the constables and prisoners with as much vegetable food as they need.

19. On the 25th April, the Treasurer, Mr. Ballantine, started on a trip inland from Port Moresby. The principal object of the expedition was to induce the Hagari tribe to submit to the Government. The Hagari people are one of the mountain tribes that, in conjunction with other mountaineers, for many years made periodical attacks or raids on tribes lying between them and the coast. The effect of these constant attacks had been to gradually depopulate a large tract of country. During the last few years the Government has been able to give more attention to these mountain tribes. Several parties had been sent inland as far as and past Hagari. The last-named tribe never boldly opposed the Government, but they evaded attempts to get into com-

munication with them. Other neighbouring tribes, such as the Agi and Boura, had been brought into amicable relations with the Government. As the Hagari were thus getting to hold rather an isolated position in their unfriendly attitude, it was thought that probably they would not be very backward in accepting offers of friendship. The expedition which was being got ready to proceed under Messrs. Russell and MacDonald, to the Gap, would in all probability pass through the Hagari country, and if the latter were friendly it would materially assist the progress of the expedition.

Mr. Ballantine's party proceeded by the road that leads from Port Moresby to the summit of the Astrolabe Range. After passing Taburi and Sogeri they journeyed through the Ubere, Eana, and Boura country until they came near to Hagari. Some friendly natives, who were on amicable terms with the Hagari, were sent on to that tribe. They induced the Hagari to listen to the proposals of the Government, that the Hagari should be at peace with the Government. The Hagari chief came to meet our party, and after presents had been exchanged they all went together to the Hagari villages. As it had been anticipated that Mr. Russell's party, travelling by the Brown River road, would reach Hagari not long after Mr. Ballantine had done so, the the latter stayed at Hagari for a week. From this point small parties were sent out to try and discover Mr. Russell's party. The only apparent sign of the second expedition was a red blanket which, with the aid of a telescope, could be seen flying on top of a hill at least ten miles to the south-west. A party was sent out with instructions to try and get to this ridge, which was on the other side of the Brown, but did not succeed in doing so. In the country in question, the feasible track between two hill summits, ten miles apart as the crow flies, may mean a very circuitous and difficult one. Mr. Ballantine, after leaving Hagari, went to the Brown. He kept near that river for six or seven days, making towards Port Moresby. Shots were heard, which proceeded from Mr. Russell's expedition. Many shots were fired in reply, and as independent signals. Some of these were heard by Mr. Russell's party; but the two expeditions did not manage to meet. The country is extremely broken, and made up of steep hills and deep gorges, all clothed in dense forests. Mr. Ballantine's party were fortunate in coming across a fair amount of game, in the shape of pigs, forest wallaby, and cassowary. In that usually rather damp district, of cool nights, a liberal supply of fresh meat has a very beneficial effect on the spirits of the constables and carriers. Mr. Ballantine's party were absent from Port about a month, and marched, whilst on the journey, about two hundred miles.

20. On the 25th April, 1899, an expedition, under the charge of Mr. H. H. Stuart Russell, assisted by Mr. J. MacDonald, left Port Moresby, and proceeded inland. The objects of the expedition were to examine the country between the coast and the

Gap, and on the other side of the Gap to the bottom of the Main Range, for the purpose, if possible, of discovering a track that would be suitable for a road over the range. The Gap is the name given to a marked depression in the Main Range, situate to the south-eastward of Mount Victoria.

Owing to the flooded state of the Laloki and Brown Rivers, and to wet weather, the progress of the party was somewhat slow. Time was also taken up in erecting buildings at different points on the route. The transport of the stores necessary for a lengthy trip also delayed the party.

The Hagari villages were reached in about a month. A short stay was made there. The relations between the party and the Hagari were friendly. After leaving Hagari unfriendly natives were encountered as far as the Gap, but no actual fighting took place. The Gap was reached on the 6th of June. Here the party remained for some three weeks waiting for further supplies which were expected from the coast. As the supplies had not arrived by the 29th, it was determined to go on with a reduced party.

On the 30th June the party left the summit of the Gap and began to travel down the north face of the range. Shortly after starting some friendly Neneba men were met, and the party went with them to their principal village. The party stopped at the Neneba villages for a day.

After leaving the Neneba villages the expedition marched on to the Yoda River, a tributary of the Mambare. The river bed where they struck it was about 150 yards wide, but the stream itself was only some twenty yards wide, and knee deep. When the van of the party came to the river they saw four natives engaged in fishing at the other side of the river. They got into communication by signs with these natives, and the latter motioned them to stay where they were, which they did. About half an hour afterwards the four natives, accompanied by about fifty more, returned. It was arranged that the party should visit the villages of these natives the next day. On the following morning a large number of natives appeared. These carried the baggage of our people, and their villages were reached in a few hours. The expedition then pitched their camp close to the villages. At first everything wore a friendly aspect, but later on it became evident that the natives were getting hostile. Many new natives kept arriving in the afternoon from other places. As only seven of our party were armed with firearms, it was decided that the best thing to do was to return to the Gap.

An early start was made next day. The expedition soon became aware that they were being followed by several hundred armed natives. The natives behaved as if they desired to provoke a quarrel, but, fortunately for our people, no hostilities took place until the Yoda River was reached and the danger of being

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rushed in the scrub past. At the river it was apparent that the natives meant to surround and cut our people off. Fighting then began, and the natives, after suffering some loss, finally drew back.

The expedition then started on their way back to Port Moresby. A stay was made at the Hagari villages, and from this point visits were paid to other tribes. With nearly all of these friendly relations were entered into, and tribes that had not been on good terms with each other were induced to become friends. With the exception of one tribe, which seemed to have no fixed abode, the natives residing near the line of track expressed their intention of being at peace with the Government.

The mountainous nature of the country travelled through prevented a definite conclusion being formed as to whether the route followed was the best one for a future road. The formation of the country at the Gap itself hardly seemed suited for a road, at least for pack animals. So far as could be judged, a good track could be got from the point where the party struck the Yoda to Tamata station, on the Mambare. But the country through which such track would pass is inhabited by natives that have not yet been brought under the influence of the Government.

Eastern Division.

21. The Resident Magistrate gives details of various trips made by him during the year amongst the islands up the north-east coast and along the south coast. Here and there natives were arrested and lands bought, and other magisterial duties attended to.

In December last a severe gale blew throughout the Eastern Division. It was some time before the casualties caused by it could be ascertained. The loss of life at sea, so far as known, amounted to two Europeans, two coloured men, and nine natives. On shore a certain number of deaths were caused by landslips and falling trees. At one spot in Normanby Island twelve people were destroyed by a landslip. These unfortunates were rejoicing at their village being, as they thought, in a secure position, when a portion of the hillside above them suddenly came down and buried them. Very heavy rain fell whilst the gale lasted, and the loosening effect of the water, combined with the leverage of the trees, forced now by the wind, started the landslips. Sixteen small vessels were totally lost in the storm and eight driven ashore. The small craft in most cases had no option but to run ashore.

The Resident Magistrate is of opinion that the natives are getting more under control. Fewer arrests were made for serious crimes than in previous years. Some arrests were made without great difficulty in localities that had not been much visited.

The natives of Tubetube Island, and of the adjoining isles, have done a new thing for natives in making copra and selling it direct to the storekeepers in Samarai. Hitherto these trade dealings have been mostly with the small trader who has to make his living out of the intermediate business. The change is due to Mr. Field, who was for some time established as representative of the Wesleyan Mission in the district. A disadvantage of the system of the small traders is, that their mode of doing business is too much like that of the natives. The native is fairly keen at a bargain, but he loses a good deal of time and profit by selling in driblets when the fancy for obtaining some article takes him.

An account of the improvements at Samarai is given. During the last few years Samarai has become the most important business place in the Possession. Imports for the Mambare, Woodlark, and Sudest goldfields come to this port. There are several hotels, three stores, and other minor business establishments. The cocoanut trees on the island, planted by the Government, are beginning to bear, and the supply is greater than the station can find use for. As buildings increase palms have to be sacrificed to make room for them.

The average number of prisoners at the local gaol has been thirty-five; most of these were natives convicted of summmary offences. The health of the prisoners appears to be better than it used to be.

South-Eastern Division.

22. The natives in the south-eastern district are becoming amongst the most law-abiding in the Possession. There have been no tribal fights during the year. The fact that most of the islands are small, no doubt, has something to do with this. The number of Europeans that at one time were in the islands of Sudest and Woodlark had the effect of making the natives more peaceable towards each other. The island of Misima was at one time rather unruly, but it is well behaved now. Rossel is still a dark spot. It is an out-of-the-way island, rather difficult to get at, and there is not much inducement for anyone to go there. The men of the island, however, now go away more from home to gain money; and they, on their return, infuse new ideas into the heads of their fellow islanders. The Magistrate alludes to one of these travelled natives, who fell a victim, apparently, to an attempt at a reform in house building. His death is to be regretted. He had been originally arrested for complicity in a fatal fight, and had been some years in gaol, where his good conduct and intelligence led to his being made a warder. But the people of Rossel have for ages lived an exclusive life, in their lonely wooded island, with its hills constantly drenched by the vapours that roll up from the southern Pacific. Hence they they are narrow and conservative, and very superstitious.

The south-eastern division also suffered a great deal from the tempest in December last. The Government ketch, a new vessel, fortunately, was not lost, but she suffered much damage. The Mission were less fortunate, as their cutter in shore waters was lost. The gardens of the natives were damaged, and there was a scarcity of food in consequence in some localities.

The village constables for the district now number twenty-four. Some of them are very useful in their way. Misima Island is looked after by five of them, and Murua (Woodlark) Island has the same number.

With the exception of the gold got from Woodlark Island and Sudest, there is no industry that employs many Europeans. The cocoanut, though growing well, has never been cultivated to any extent. During the last year the pearl-shelling boats have found localities in other districts to work in. Probably there still exist beds of oysters in the district. Some ten tons of black-lipped shell have been collected during the year by natives and others.

The Government station on the small island of Nivani is beginning to wear a very established appearance. The cocoanuts, fruit trees, and some ornamental trees are thriving.

The Resident Magistrate, Mr. A. M. Campbell, who had been suffering a good deal from fever, was away on leave for four months of the year.

North-East Coast and Mambare.

23. Mr. W. E. Armit, the writer of the report for the past year, has been in charge of the Mambare district since the 3rd January last. After the death of Mr. Shanahan, in August, 1898, the district was looked after by Captain Butterworth up to the 1st September, when he was relieved by Mr. H. H. Stuart Russell, who acted as Resident Magistrate until the arrival of Mr. Armit.

The account in the report of the natives of the Mambare is very satisfactory. With the exception of three men all the natives that had been arrested on suspicion of taking part in the killing of Europeans in 1897 were gradually returned to their homes, most of them being returned between August, 1898, and February, 1899. The fact that these men had not been in any way harmed, and were carefully taken home, produced a very good effect on the natives, and apparently convinced them that the Government were sincere in their statement that they were prepared to treat them as friends. Since then the natives have been busy establishing new villages on the banks of the river, making new gardens, and generally settling down. They are now on friendly terms with all Europeans on the river. As will be seen by the report, they transport passengers up the river to Tamata for a fixed rate. They also help at unloading vessels that come to the anchorage at the mouth of the river.

The natives on the Gira are not so friendly, but they have not committed any act of hostility, and there is apparently not much likelihood of them doing so. They went so far, once, as to send a challenge to the police camp at the mouth of the river; but Mr. Elliott, who happened to be there, wisely limited himself to pointing out to the heralds that they were a pair of fools.

During the year some hostilities took place between the Government and natives of the Upper Api River, in which the natives got decidedly the worst of it. The Resident Magistrate thinks that this is not altogether the view taken of the matter by the natives. He refers to an alleged attempt on their part to surprise the station; but, even if they really had such an intention, it is clear that they were not in the least eager to meet the constabulary in open fight.

The natives on the coast to the south-east of the station are gradually becoming better disposed towards Europeans. Those near the mouth of the Api are quite friendly.

A very fair amount of work has been done on the station. The site originally consisted of several low narrow-topped ridges, and all the ground was covered with dense forest. Some forty to fifty acres of the forest have now been cleared. There are about thirty-four acres under cultivation. The narrow ridges had to be cut down in places in order to give sufficient flat space to erect buildings on. A large gaol, a good-sized barracks, and several other buildings, all of indigenous materials have been put up during the year. Unfortunately, the trees in that locality yield very poor, perishable timber. The aspect of the station now affords an agreeable contrast to that of the neighbouring country. It is the first open space of any extent that is met with after entering the river, and the introduced couch grass that has covered all the flat land at the station has a more civilised appearance than the patches of tall reedy grass that have here and there come across on the river. A clearing made by Mr. Whitten on land close to the station has opened out a good view of the Albert Edward Range.

The health of the district is still very bad. The Resident Magistrate considers that, as regards Europeans, they themselves are largely to blame for their ill-health. Many of the men who have come to the Mambare have probably not lived in the tropics before, and those that have resided in tropical Australia have not become acclimatised to a damp, hot climate. There is a decided contrast between the day and night temperature on the Mambare; and the cool nocturnal breeze that comes from the mountain ranges, though refreshing, is apt to cause fever if one is not careful.

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Blayney, paid a visit to the Mambare in April last. A brief report by him on health matters there will be found in Appendix P.* As will be seen from a

* Not printed.

perusal of the report, Dr. Blayney considers that the miners are largely to blame for for their ill-health. With regard to the water of Tamata Creek, it has not yet been clearly ascertained that it is injurious. It is only drunk by those living at Tamata. The creek is frequently flooded. Although the mortality amongst native carriers that have been brought to Tamata from other parts of the Possession has been heavy, the constables and prisoners from other localities that have been stationed there have not suffered severely. Several prisoners from the Fly River district, when the sentences expired, voluntarily stayed at Tamata in the capacity of gaol warders and constables.

To the report is appended a price list of the articles of food that are principally used on the field, supplied by Messrs. Clunas and Clark, who have been established for some time at Tamata and on the field. The increased price of the articles at the field is largely due to the cost of land transport from Tamata.

Western Division.

24. Owing to the serious illness of Mr. Hely, the Resident Magistrate of the Western Division, no annual report for that part of the Possession has been sent in. The work of the district has gone on steadily. Offences have been much the same as in previous years. Offenders in the Western Division are, as a rule, arrested and brought into Daru by the village constables, without waiting for special instructions to do so.

About the beginning of the year there was a slight rumour that the Tugeri had invaded the Morehead River district, but there seemed to be no foundation for this rumour. Whether these marauders will again venture far into the Possession is doubtful. Their conduct in 1892, when they reached the Government station at Mabudauan, and their action when they were fought in 1896, would seem to show that they never had contemplated coming into conflict with Europeans.

The only known disturbance of a serious nature amongst the natives took place inland of the station at Bugi. Some inland natives of that part came to Bugi, and informed the corporal in charge that a Maie inland tribe was attacking them. The corporal started off with his men, and, after four days march, reached the country of the enemy. A species of pitched battle ensued, which ended in the defeat of the enemy. According to the constables some forty of the hostile natives were killed, but in these matters the constables are somewhat prone to exaggerate. They captured a few children, whom they brought back, and handed over to the mission teacher at Bugi. It speaks well for the constables that they undertook and carried out the expedition quickly and successfully.

Various improvements have been made at Daru. The principal one has been the lengthening of the jetty. This is rather an extensive work for an out-station, as the jetty, owing to the shallowness of the water, is a very long one.

The natives of the district now obtain pearlshell on their own account, to a certain extent. This they sell at Daru, or in Thursday Island. No doubt the output of shell will be increased if the natives persevere in this industry. The waters near the coast are often too discoloured to enable the collecting of shell to be carried out successfully; hence the banks near the shore are not so liable to be stripped by the pearlshelling boats owned by Thursday Island people.

Commandant.

25. The Commandant, with the field contingent, was away from Port Moresby for 202 days on patrol work. During the other portions of the year he was at headquarters. The men when at headquarters are engaged at drill and fatigue work. They also act as boatmen, orderlies, and so forth. Sometimes they go on short expeditions, under the charge of non-commissioned officers, to arrest offenders in neighbouring districts. They did some special work in the way of putting up buildings for themselves. They are beginning to devote themselves to cricket in their leisure hours.

For the first two months of the year the Commandant was in the east, and spent most of that period at the Mambare. Shortly after the arrival of the Commandant at Mambare, the Resident Magistrate of that district, the late Mr. Shanahan, died of sickness, and his duties were performed by the Commandant until he was released. During this period a trip was made to the Gira, which resulted in the arrest of some of the natives chiefly concerned in the killing of Europeans in 1897. Further details about the real culprits in these homicides were also obtained. This information led to the release of a certain number of Mambare natives, who were detained on remand. The release of these men facilitated the pacification of the district.

In October an expedition was undertaken against a tribe inland from Aroma, known as the Galirupu. Some of their number had killed a native of an adjoining tribe, who had been a convict, and had but lately been returned to his home. Most of the Galirupu men sympathised with the homicides, as the man they had slain was supposed to have compassed the death of a Galirupu native by sorcery. The Galirupu people, therefore, took up a bellicose attitude, and expressed their intention to repel by force any attempt to arrest the culprits. The expedition was successful; the Galirupu warriors ran away after a few shots had been fired at them, and the principal culprit and one of his accomplices were arrested. A few days were then spent in visiting other tribes in the neighbourhood, who all expressed disapproval of the acts of the Galirupu people.

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From the 22nd December to the 24th January the Commandant accompanied the Acting Administrator to the east. During this trip the Commandant, with the field contingent, marched against some hill villages on the Opi River, and succeeded in surprising one village in broad daylight; but there was no occasion for actual fighting. A little later on the Commandant and his men took part in a short expedition into the country at the back of Collingwood Bay.

During March and April the Commandant was with the Lieutenant-Governor in a trip to the westward.

From the 14th April to the 13th June the Commandant accompanied the Lieutenant-Governor in a long eastern trip. With the exception of a visit to a village inland from Milne Bay, and a night march to arrest a culprit in Fergusson Island, the constabulary were not called upon to perform any special constabulary work.

Head Gaoler and Overseer of Works.

26. As regards prisoners, the head gaoler's report only deals with those that are confined in Port Moresby Gaol. But except that prison discipline is more precisely observed at Port Moresby than at outside stations, the treatment of prisoners is much the same all over the Possession. Not that it is to be inferred that the discipline at branch prisons is lax. Long-sentenced prisoners at country stations who are quite strangers to the district in which the station is situate are not in the least likely to become unruly or to attempt to escape. In this, to them, new land the station is their home for a certain time, and they take more interest in what is going on at the station than in anything else. Hence they can often be treated, with benefit to themselves and the Government, very much as acting labourers and assistants..

The number of prisoners that were received into Port Moresby Gaol during the year was 114. The number of prisoners discharged from the gaol during the period was sixty-five. The greatest number confined at one time was forty-six, and the lowest sixteen.

As will be seen by the report, the work performed by the prisoners is of different kinds. There is no necessity to create work for them. Their work is nearly all out-of-door work. The best of them have been engaged during much of the year, in constructing roads. In order to carry out this work they have had to camp for months in the bush. A dozen or so, under the charge of the head gaoler, went a trip to the other side of the range which lasted some three months. When out in the bush they have to be allowed a great deal of freedom. New men are not taken on such expeditions, unless they are from the most settled parts. Long-sentenced prisoners seldom if ever try to

escape after they have been some time in gaol. Apparently, this cannot be ascribed to their fuller knowledge of the consequences. A feeling akin to honour is probably at the bottom of it. The prisoner has become used to gaol life, and to taking orders from, and being kindly looked after by, his gaolers and warders. He knows that he is not placed under restraint, because those who are in charge of him have confidence in him and believe that he will not run away. He does not like to forfeit their good opinion by abusing this confidence.

It is satisfactory to know that the health of the prisoners has been good. As a rule, however, the health of the prisoners is better than that of natives leading free lives. Prisoners are about the only natives in the Possession that are obliged to take proper remedies and to nurse themselves when sick. One thing that leads to deaths amongst natives seems to be unknown in the gaol, and that is the fear of sorcery. It cannot be said that a long sentence in gaol or long service under the Government eradicates this belief. But apparently whilst they are in gaol they are too busy to have time for engendering morbid fancies, or they may think that the sorcerer whilst they are under the care of the Government is afraid to injure them or has no reason for doing so.

MISSION WORK.

The London Missionary Society.

27. The constantly increasing number of native youths who have been trained as teachers is enabling the Mission to further enlarge their field of labour. Many of these young men come from the college at Vatorata, and have thus had the benefit of Dr. Lawes' long and varied experience in educating natives. Some of these native teachers are in charge of large villages and perform their duties creditably, and, as a rule, all of them readily assist Government officers in maintaining the law.

In the central district of this Mission gaps in the coastline of mission stations are gradually being filled up. A new station has been started some distance inland in the hill country back of Vatorata. The establishing of inland stations is rather a new feature with this Mission, but until lately their staff of available teachers was hardly more than sufficient for the coast.

The coastal district lying between Bilirupu and Du Faure Island has until recently not been brought under the thorough control of the Mission. The formation of a new European station on the island of Mailu, or in the neighbourhood of that island, which is now being undertaken, should remedy this.

Mr. Hunt has returned to his post at Port Moresby, where he finds plenty of scope for his energy. It may be thought that the natives of districts like the Port Moresby one do not require as

much supervision as those of newer districts, but it is a question whether they do not require more. In these older districts the native mind has been diverted from some of its evil grooves, but there is danger that if it is not deflected into better ones it will run into worse ones.

Mr. Chalmers has been busy in his isolated and somewhat depressing district in the far west. Teachers stationed in this portion of British New Guinea probably need more animating to keep them up to the mark than is the case in localities where the surroundings are brighter.

Mr. Pearce has been away from his district on leave, but his carefully instructed teachers appear to manage the district in a satisfactory manner. Mr. Dauncey has also been away on leave, his district being looked after by Mr. Holmes.

In the Gulf district, which is Mr. Holmes' own district, much has been done in the way of reorganising old stations and establishing new ones. Mr. Holmes has also visited many inland villages.

Perhaps the most distinctive feature of Mission life at Kwato is the pains that Mr. Abel bestows upon the everyday life of his students. Amusements, like cricket, football, &c., have been introduced and fostered. To those unacquainted with human beings in the Papuan stage these things may appear to be of little moment, but in reality they are important. Even though you have influenced the more serious side of the Papuan's nature you have, so to speak, only influenced a segment of the circle of his life. If you have the remaining segment uninfluenced it may in the end ruin the good that you have done to him. Perhaps the greatest obstacle to be overcome in trying to improve a Papuan is his apathy. It may be questioned if at any time past the Papuan barbarian took the same interest in life that a civilised man does. The Government and the mission between them have stopped him from doing things which added interest to his life. A native might be forgiven if, judging by the first steps taken by his civil and ecclesiastical preceptors to improve him, he came to the conclusion that they consisted principally in shutting up accustomed ways and not opening new ones to him, and that the novel views of life presented for his acceptance were not very attractive. This aspect of the matter tends to make him listless and apathetic, or at least to prefer the old way to the new. But by initiating him into wholesome amusements, by arousing in him a healthy spirit of amicable rivalry, and by showng him that improvement leads to a more genial and a pleasanter state of existence, his interest in life is increased, and the danger of his becoming listless and apathetic is diminished.

The Sacred Heart Mission.

28. The Sacred Heart Mission have been energetically labouring in their district during the last year or two; strong additions have been made to their staff, both in number and in the

character and abilities of individual members. They hope to shortly start stations inland, in quite new districts. As in forming most of their new stations the members of this mission have largely to rely on their own hands for labour, and on the neighbouring forests for materials, the constructing of dwelling-houses, schools, and churches takes much time and hard work. Tropical maladies still bear heavily on the members of the mission, whose duty often compels them to forego a needed change of life and climate. Two well-known members have died during the year, Father Victor and Brother George. The former, a very promising young man, had in previous years, with slender resources, undertaken, in company with Father Jullien, trips into the far interior that would have done credit to experienced and well equipped explorers. Brother George, who had been brought much into contact with the officers of the Government, was much liked by all of them for his kindly, open nature. He was a good type of the pious, simple-hearted, Christian worker, who leads a hard, laborious, humble life in a cheerful spirit, and without expectation of reward in this world.

The Wesleyan Mission.

29. This mission is continuing its steady progress. The staff at Dobu has been increased by the addition of several sisters. Mr. Bromilow is making arrangements for starting a central collegiate institution, at which youths from all the districts of the mission will be taught. An islet on the coast of Normanby Island will probably be acquired for this purpose.

The Tube Tube Mission, which is under Mr. Field's charge, has been removed to Duau, in Normanby Island. The change should be for the better, as Tube Tube is but a small island and somewhat out of the way.

A new station is being established on Goodenough Island, on the shores of the straits that separate Goodenough from Fergusson Island. The site is a good one, as it is in a populous part of Goodenough, and but a short distance from a thickly inhabited portion of Fergusson. Mr. Fletcher will take charge of this new station.

In the Trobriands stations are gradually being pushed on. One of these has been established in the Kiriwina district of the largest island, at the village of the principal chief of the archipelago. He for a long time objected to having a mission station at his village. A decided improvement has taken place in the demeanour of the young people of the villages that are adjacent to Mr. Fellowes's residence.

The Anglican Mission.

30. The Anglican Mission has been adding to the number of its stations. Mr. Copeland King, the chief pioneer of the mission, established as many stations as he could; but although he found

time to inspect many places on the north-east coast, he had not the means of placing stations at more than a few of them. Since the Bishop of New Guinea has become the head of the mission, a larger staff and ampler means have been at his disposal and are being made the most of. The headquarters of the mission are being shifted to Mukawa, near Cape Vogel, and will thus be more in the centre of their district. The new site, the top of a bluff close to the sea, appears to be a healthy one, and commands a fine view of the coast. Under the supervision of the "local dozen" of the mission, Mr. Tomlinson, a substantial roomy house has been erected here.

The most advanced part of the mission is in Collingwood Bay. Mr. Abbott, who has been in charge of it, has had a difficult task in gaining the confidence and acquiring some influence over the inhabitants of this large bay, whose language neither he nor his assistants could at first speak, and who have but quite recently begun to respect Government authority.

In establishing stations on that part of the north-east coast that lies between Collingwood Bay and the Mambare, the mission will have to overcome many difficulties. The natives of these parts have not yet been brought under Government control, and it is at present impossible to get interpreters who really understand their language.

TRADE.

31. The value of the trade of the Possession for the year was —imports, £52,170; exports, £68,496; together, £120,666. This is an increase of £23,836 over the previous year. During the last five years the trade of the country has been:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1894–[illegible]	28,367	16,215	44,582
1895–96	34,521	19,401	53,922
1896–97	51,391	44,345	95,737
1897–98	46,971	49,859	96,830
1898–99	52,170	68,496	120,666

Imports.

32. During the past five years the imports at the three ports of entry have been:—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1894-95	12,079	14,036	2,253	28,367
1895-96	20,912	12,235	1,374	34,521
1896-97	32,813	17,521	1,056	51,392
1897-98	30,166	14,995	1,810	46,971
1898-99	35,594	15,594	982	52,170

The nine chief imports of the past year were the nine chief imports of the previous year. In these items the two years compare as follows:—

Article.	1898-99.	1897-98.	Increase or Decrease.
	£	£	£
Beer (bottled)	1,400	1,029	+ 371
Boats	3,213	2,650	+ 563
Drapery	4,810	3,923	+ 887
Flour	1,034	1,293	— 259
Hardware	1,486	2,192	— 706
Meat (preserved)	4,079	4,212	— 133
Rice	2,816	2,529	+ 287
Timber	1,631	971	+ 660
Tobacco (trade)	4,184	4,564	— 380

The total imports for the year exceed those for the previous year by £5,199.

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Exports.

33. During the last five years the exports, as entered at the three Customs Offices of the Colony, were:—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1894–95	8,399	5,059	2,757	16,215
1895–96	10,600	8,326	475	19,401
1896–97	39,349	4,658	338	44,345
1897–98	42,474	7,266	118	49,859
1898–99	63,228	5,141	127	68,496

The six chief exports of the past year were the six chief exports of the previous year. In these items the two years compare as follows:—

Article.	1898–99.	1897–98.	Increase or Decrease.
	£	£	£
Bêche-de-Mer	1,644	3,395	— 1,751
Copra	2,907	2,425	+ 482
Gold	44,185	25,612	+ 18,573
Indiarubber	1,935	3,683	— 1,748
Pearl-shell	10,284	8,468	+ 1,816
Sandalwood	2,920	2,940	— 20

The increase in the total of last year's exports, as compared with that of the previous year's exports, is £18,637. The increase in the gold export of last year over the previous year is £18,573. From this it will be seen that, gold apart, the exports of the two years only differ by £64

As has been mentioned in previous reports, the gold entered for export does not truly represent all that is got in or leaves the country. The quantity entered inwards at the Customs-house, Cooktown, was 9,078 oz., an increase of 2,248 oz. over the previous year.

The decrease in india-rubber is probably partly due to the most accessible country near the coast having been more or less worked out. At present, also, it is next to impossible to prevent the destruction of the trees in new country.

Apparently the export of sandalwood may increase during the coming year, as the price has risen. The industry is now carried on in a more systematic fashion than it used to be. The distance that the timber has now to be carried to the coast has made it necessary to employ carts and horses to transport it.

Pearl-shell has substantially increased in the last few years. In recent years more enterprise in seeking for fresh beds has been shown.

SHIPPING.

34. All shipping entered inwards or outwards was British. The total number of vessels (exclusive of Government vessels) entered inwards from beyond the Colony was 92, representing 19,583 tons; the total number cleared outwards for foreign parts was eighty-one, representing 19,191 tons. The total foreign tonnage for the past five years has been:—

——	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
Tons	22,824	19,759	28,824	26,551	38,774

The entries inwards and outwards, coastwise, for the same period have been:—

——	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
Vessels	107	333	595	631	568
Tons	5,133	7,845	20,676	14,511	15,886

POSTAL.

35. The postal transactions for the past five years were:—

Article.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.
Letters received	6,279	7,130	11,148	[9,604	16,045
Letters despatched ...	6,189	4,987	11,550	10,203	11,529
Packets received	129	246	181	249	584
Packets despatched... ...	468	281	475	497	1,102
Newspapers received ...	7,046	7,197	7,441	8,691	10,609
Newspapers despatched ...	776	828	1,635	2,135	2,337

The increase for the past year, as compared with the previous year, is:—

Letters received	6,441
Letters despatched	1,326
Packets received	335
Packets despatched	605
Newspapers received	1,918
Newspapers despatched	202

Finance.

Revenue.

36. The amount of revenue collected in the Possession and paid into the Queensland Treasury during the year was £11,682, showing an increase of £1,401 over the previous year. It is compared below with the figures of the previous four years :—

Source of Revenue.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	4,646 11 4	6,000 13 0	9,350 19 11	9,207 17 10	9,884 9 4
Gold Fields	25 17 6	77 17 11	261 17 3	285 0 0	317 4 0
Fees	105 3 7	57 16 4	415 16 9	212 15 0	356 6 8
Fines					
Licenses	246 15 0	292 15 0	246 10 0	304 10 0	428 10 0
Miscellaneous	85 8 0	118 10 0	388 13 9	270 12 5	696 1 7
Totals ... £	5,109 15 5	6,547 12 3	10,663 17 8	10,280 15 3	11,682 11 7

Expenditure.

37. The comparative expenditure for ordinary administrative services for the past five years is given below. As will be seen, the expenditure for the last year amounts to £15,582 14*s.* 6*d.*, or £582 14*s.* 6*d.* in excess of the amount voted for such services. This may appear a marked increase as compared with the figures of the previous year. But in addition to the sum expended in 1897–98 for ordinary services, there was expended for surveys and extra Government agents, out of special appropriations, the sum of £1,003 13*s.* 1*d.* The amount expended last year on these services out of special appropriation was £379 12*s.*, that sum being all that was available for special appropriation. Owing also, to the accounts for the year 1897–98 having to be closed very soon after the end of that year, a sum of about £1,200 that belonged to that year had to be paid out of the funds of last year :—

Heads of Expenditure.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Civil List Salaries	3,248 11 3	3,186 8 6	3,195 11 3	3,175 0 0	3,179 16 8
Other Salaries	3,640 6 9	3,779 1 9	3,552 2 2	3,660 7 0	3,683 19 10
Vessels and Boats	1,214 3 1	1,587 8 7	1,258 18 5	1,588 11 11	1,572 6 10
Allowances	1,613 13 3	1,387 12 0	2,061 4 4	1,511 1 1	1,373 0 1
Buildings and Works	397 7 10	660 19 3	754 10 6	335 3 5	484 2 11
Agriculture	155 7 11	142 0 9	94 14 5	88 6 10	130 0 0
Mail Service	900 0 0	900 0 0	900 0 0	—	—
Miscellaneous...	3,830 9 11	3,356 9 2	4,411 18 9	4,572 1 7	5,159 8 2
Totals ... £	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0	16,228 19 10	14,990 11 10	15,582 14 6

38. The expenditure on the steamship "Merrie England" for the fifteen months ending with the 30th June, 1899, was £9,015 7*s*. Of this sum £8,217 18*s*. 3*d*. was money voted and £797 8*s*. 9*d*. earnings. The reason why the expenditure is reckoned for fifteen instead of twelve months is because previous to last year the accounts for the steamer were made up to the 31st March in each year to make them accord with the Imperial financial year. Hence the accounts for 1897-98 were made up to 31st March, 1898. The contribution from the Imperial Government ceased in 1898, and with it ceased the reason for making up the accounts to 31st March. The accounts are now made up to the 30th June, the same date as the other accounts are made up to.

As will be seen from the particulars of expenditure given in Appendix BB,* the fifteen months began with a debit balance of £370 9*s*. 10*d*. and ended with a credit balance of £161 11*s*. 11*d*.

During the past year the steamer travelled 15,913 miles. The consumption of coal was:—Main engines, 591 tons 17 cwt.; launches, 23 tons 8 cwt.; galley, 13 tons; or a total of 628 tons 5 cwt. In addition to the launch which the steamer carries, she bears the expenditure of the launch 'Ruby."

GOLD MINING.

39. Matters are and have been dull in the Louisiade Gold Field. This field comprises the islands of the Archipelago of the Louisiades. Although much quartz has been found on several islands, the only ones in which mining has been carried on are Misima and Sudest. On Misima mining has practically ceased. That there is no more gold to be found in it would be a hasty conclusion to come to, as what may exist in the bowels of its lofty densely-wooded hills is unknown. An auriferous lease was applied for during the year of a piece of land in this island.

Alluvial mining in Sudest Island has fallen very low. What there is is chiefly carried on by natives, who have become very proficient at the work and who can get enough to satisfy them from ground which it would not be worth while to a European to mine in. The future prospects of the island as a goldfield apparently depend upon its reef. The British New Guinea Gold Fields Proprietary Company have several leases of claims, situate on a ridge about midway between sea and sea. The initial expenses of this company were heavy, probably much more so than its founders expected. In quite new country and under entirely novel conditions most people would be apt to underestimate the cost and labour required in landing heavy machinery, making roads over which to carry it through wooded hills of soft slippery clay, and hauling it over these roads. This work, however, has been done, and at present there is a quartz machine erected at the foot of the slope of the hill in which the reef is situated. The

* Not printed.

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reef is reached by tunnels driven into the hill side. A large quantity of quartz has been crushed. The return of gold is not known to the Government. Mr. Hancock, who until recently was the local manager of the mine, is at present away from the Possession, and is busy arranging for more capital. As a pioneer Mr. Hancock deserves recognition, as he has struggled against difficulties and against sickness with indefatigable perseverance and energy.

40. The Woodlark Gold Field fell off during the year as an alluvial field. There were at the close of the year some sixty or seventy miners on it. The most important gold workings on Woodlark Island are in an isolated little range, situated about half a mile from the head of a bay on the northern coast of the island. Close to a gully in these hills a remarkable lode or dyke of mineral has been found, in which gold occurs in large quantities. One claim at least has turned out exceedingly well. The gold obtained is in the form of "dust." It is questionable whether much of it has not been lost through incomplete appliances being used. The appearance of the lode would certainly not lead an inexperienced miner to think there might be gold in it. This discovery was made some time ago, but it is only lately that much attention has been drawn to the locality. New claims have been taken up in the neighbourhood, and a more systematic search for the lode is being made at other points on the hill. There is still a fair amount of hill country in the island that has never been properly prospected for lodes or reefs. The search would no doubt involve time and money; but the fact that a large quantity of alluvial gold has been found in, and close to, the hills would seem to indicate that gold-bearing minerals form part of the substance of which the hills are composed. The lode found at Kulamadau strengthens this view. This hill, a small range, is isolated from the main body of the high land, but in external aspect, and in its composition, it does not seem to differ much from others of the hills in the island.

41. The Mambare, or, to call it by its official name, the Gira, goldfield has been the one that during the year attracted the most miners to it. This field has been rather an unsatisfactory one. Gold was first found in this part of the Possession, not far from the main range, in creeks that ran into the Mambare. After these were apparently worked out there was for a time a cessation of mining work. The discovery of some good specimens of gold on the Gira by the late Mr. Shanahan led to the country between the Mambare and the Gira being prospected. Of late mining operations have been confined to this last-named tract of country. The results obtained have been very uneven; some have done well, others have done very badly. The whole country is clothed in dense forest, and the fall of rain is heavy. Hence gold seeking is a laborious and difficult task. The Warden estimates that probably about 10,000 ounces is the yield from the field for the

year. The population varies, but the average has been about 150 men. A drawback to prospecting has been the difficulty of obtaining carriers; but the mortality amongst native carriers in the district has been so heavy that it is unreasonable to expect that natives will engage as carriers for the Mambare. Considering that, apart from the question of health, the wages paid to carriers has not been much higher than they can obtain near their own homes, and that the hardships have been much greater, it is a wonder that so many natives were induced to go to the Mambare. There has been no trouble with hostile natives on the field where the mining has been carried on lately, the country being an uninhabited one.

The probabilities seem to be that there still exists undiscovered auriferous country inland between the Mambare and the Gira. But it will take time and labour to prospect the country in question; and, as the Warden points out, much of the mining hitherto done has been carried on by inexperienced miners. More elaborate methods of mining will probably produce better results.

42. Quite recently gold has been found in hilly country a few miles inland from the head of Milne Bay, which is situate at the south-east extremity of New Guinea. It is too early yet to form a conclusion as to the richness of the locality in the precious metal. Several years ago gold was found in the hills some twenty miles to the north-west of the spot at which gold has lately been found. The new field has the advantage of being easily reached. With a fair wind a boat can run from Samarai to the head of Milne Bay in a day. There is a large native population in Milne Bay, who are quite willing to carry over the few miles that intervene between the sea and the field. The nature of the country where the gold has been found is rugged and broken. Should the auriferous country extend towards the south-east for any distance, it will be accessible from the south coast by the deep inlet of Mullin's Harbour.

LAND SETTLEMENT.

43. In Appendix CC* are given the list of grants issued during the year. This does not represent the lands applied for and granted during the year. In a new country like this Possession, where the different blocks of land are generally far apart, it is difficult to get lands surveyed. The Crown has been so far unable to undertake the duty, as the fees that would be paid by the purchaser would not nearly recoup the Crown. At present there is one private licensed surveyor in the Possession who resides at Samarai.

* Not printed.

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The largest area of land taken up during the year was some ten square miles on the Musa River. This has been taken up by a company, of which Dr. Vaughan is the local representative. The cultivation of indiarubber is one of the uses to which it is prepared to put this land.

The Warirata plantation of Messrs. Burns, Philp, and Co., Limited, is the most interesting one in the country. It is situated on the summit of the Astrolabe Range, at an altitude of some 2,600 feet, and is distant from Port Moresby by the road a little over a score of miles. The climate is of course cooler than that of the low coast country. There are here some 20,000 growing plants of Arabian coffee. In addition to these, the experiment of planting 16,000 holes with seed is being tried. The oldest plants flowered at fourteen months, and at that age were about three feet high. Fruit trees that thrive in tropical climates, and also certain kinds that thrive in temperate climates, have been planted out. English potatoes, carrots, turnips, and cabbages do fairly well; and watercress is now growing in a freshwater creek. Some crossbred and Lincoln sheep are depastured on the grassy hills, but it is too soon yet to be able to judge whether they will do well.

Messrs. Gors and Anderson's plantation of cocoanuts at Dedere, on the shores of Cloudy Bay, is now beginning to bear. The ground is flat and only a few feet above sea level. Apparently the subsoil keeps humid during most of the year. There was not much forest on the land originally, but the native grass that covered it was thick and as stout as small cane. As the trees grew up it became easier to keep the grass down. The trees have not grown in altitude rapidly, but they are healthy looking. Their trunks are stout and the bole at the bottom is large and full, both apparent indications of vitality in the tree. There are some 18,000 trees in all.

Some acres planted with the indigenous indiarubber tree known as the maki-maki can be seen at Mr. A. C. English's place at Rigo. The young trees are growing well. The maki-maki grows in a wild state on the flat in which the plantation is situate.

At Cibara Island, on the Fly River, pea-nuts have lately been cultivated. Some 12 cwt. were sent from thence last year. The owners of the island are apparently satisfied with the experiment, and intend cultivating the plant largely.

A large block of land has lately been taken up on the Oriomo River that debouches into Daru roads. The river can be navigated by boats for some distance. The Daru roads are a good anchorage at all seasons of the year. There is a large extent of land on and in the vicinity of this river which is not used by natives.

METEOROLOGICAL.

44. Tables of meteorological observations taken at Port Moresby, in the Central District, and at Daru, in the Western District, will be found in Appendix DD.*

The rainfall at Port Moresby for the year was 44·25 inches. The greatest fall was in March, 1899, when 13·69 inches fell. In September, 1898, and in June, 1899, there was practically no rain. It rained on sixty-nine days of the year, and the greatest rainfall in any one day was 6.25 inches. The rainfall at Port Moresby for the last five years has been:—

	inches.
1894-95	40·11
1895-96	32·15
1896-97	38·97
1897-98	37·70
1898-99	44·25

At Daru the rainfall for the year was 82.70 inches. The heaviest fall was in April, 1899, when 23.17 inches were recorded. The lightest fall was that of September, 1898, when only 0.34 inches fell. Rain fell on 199 days, and the greatest fall in any one day was 4.34 inches. The rainfall at Daru for the last five years has been:—

	inches.
1894-95	116.52
1895-96	69.49
1896-97	61.62
1897-98	93.60
1898-99	82.90

The following are the temperature records for Port Moresby:—

Average temperature for the year—Attached thermometer, 82.82 degrees; maximum thermometer, 88.36 degrees; minimum thermometer, 74.10 degrees.

Greatest average heat for one month: Attached thermometer, November, 1898, 86.33 degrees; maximum thermometer, January, 1899, 92.83 degrees; minimum thermometer, January, 1899, 76.12 degrees.

Least average heat for one month: Attached thermometer, August, 1898, 79.16 degrees; maximum thermometer, July, 1898, 83.46 degrees; minimum thermometer, June, 1899, 72.50 degrees.

* Not printed.

The following are the temperature records for Daru:—

Greatest average heat for one month: Attached thermometer, October, 1898, 83.25 degrees; maximum thermometer, March, 1899, 87.3 degrees; minimum thermometer, December, 1898, 76.38 degrees.

Least average heat for one month: Attached thermometer, July, 1898, 78.9 degrees; maximum thermometer, July, 1898, 81.9 degrees; minimum thermometer, July, 1898, 73.9 degrees.

With regard to the sea-coast of the mainland, the experience so far gained seems to prove that the climate of the western portion is rainy. Port Moresby is apparently near the centre of a dry belt that extends between 100 and 150 miles along the coast. From the eastern point of this belt the climate again becomes more rainy as far as East Cape. The north-east coast as far as Cape Nelson is drier. Beyond Cape Nelson as far as the northern boundary rain appears to be more frequent, and the Mambare is a wet district.

So far no continuous experience of the climate of the mountain region has been obtained. It seems evident that rainy weather is much more common in the mountains than on the coast. Thunder showers are more frequent. Mist and drizzle also prevail in the high lands. On the Astrolabe Range, which is close to the coast, abundance of water and fresh grass will be found during periods in which the country at its base is parched and withered.

NATIVE MATTERS.

45. From the reports of Government officers it is evident that year by year the influence of the Government extends further and further throughout the country. The experiences of traders and bird collectors also show that the desire to be on friendly terms with the white man is spreading. The visits of Government parties and of private persons into new districts tend in the end to lessen the suspicion of the native regarding the conduct and intentions of the stranger towards him. But doubtless there are other causes which lead to the native changing his attitude from one of hostility or mistrust to one of confidence and friendliness. The Papuan is not a nomadic savage, possessed of little but his weapons and his dogs. He regards a portion of the country as the inheritance of his people, and to this little territory he is much attached. He owns a garden and a fixed abode, and a few chattels, which are valuable to him. To lose his possessions, and to be driven out of his country, he would regard as a great misfortune. He probably hears of the fair-skinned new-comer, and of his actions and his power, long before he sees anything of him. He also learns that the whiteman possesses articles that he de-

sires very much to have. The Papuan is probably not much given to reflection, though he certainly seems to be addicted to discussing things with his friends a great deal. It is probable, therefore, that the whiteman and the advantages or otherwise of being on amicable terms with him is a subject that often forms the topic of conversation, even in villages that have never seen a European. The change in the attitude and manner of natives, between a first and subsequent visit of a Government party, can scarcely be entirely due to the effect produced by either visit. What has taken place in the *interim* amongst the natives themselves has probably something to do with the change. There is one known instance of natives coming to a determination amongst themselves to be obedient to the Government. The natives of the Engineer Group were at one time a terror to neighbouring islands owing to their murder us raids. Apparently some time after the Protectorate had been established they ceased these raids, and from that time they have been very quiet well-behaved natives. The Rev. Mr. Field was once speaking to their old chief about this change. The old man explained that a conviction had spread amongst them that their existing mode of life would bring them into conflict with the new power, which evidently did not approve of raiding. So they held serious discussions over the matter, and finally concluded that it was best to bow to circumstances, and behave in a manner that the Government would approve of. "And you see," added the chief with evident pride, "Not one of us has ever been put in gaol."

For a good while to come improvement amongst natives will apparently manifest itself mostly in giving up evil ways, and not in acquiring new and better ones. Because the members of a tribe have ceased to kill each other, or the members of other tribes, and now live in peace and harmony, it does not follow that there has been any radical change in the character of the people. The fear of the law restrains the native's hand, and in time, probably, weakens the impulse to resort to violence. But leaving the influence of the law out of the question, the native is now behaving as he probably always did behave when there existed no particular reason for his doing otherwise. He is naturally a cheerful, good-tempered individual, and likes to be on amicable terms with those whom he comes in contact with. He is at present what he most likely always was, except that he now represses propensities that formerly he did not repress.

The Papuan apparently must have reached the stage on the road from savagery to civilisation at which he is now arrived, some time ago. If the coast tribes, from the Dutch to the German boundary, be taken no profound difference will be found amongst them. In the purely useful acts they are all much on a level. The houses of some tribes are larger and more solid; some build much superior canoes; and others, again, have much better gardens. But these differences are most likely the result of necessity and

local circumstances, and not of any special intellectual quality. The Papuan mind is by no means so stagnant that it cannot in matters which it thoroughly understands perceive the superiority of one article over another, or the value of some article that is new. A native almost at once sees that an iron tomahawk or a European fishhook is better than a stone tomahawk or a thorn hook. And the same with European pigs, and dogs, and tobacco. But when it comes to quite new tools, or things, the native does not readily perceive their value.

It is perhaps assumed too implicitly that because the native sometimes imitates Europeans or adapts himself for a time to their ways that he is convinced of the superiority of these ways and intends to follow them. His taking to wearing clothes is cited as an example of this. But it is probably in the matter of clothes and in personal ornaments that the Papuan most clearly shows what an unadulterated barbarian he still is. If the natives of Port Moresby cannot be said to be those that are most addicted to wearing clothes, they at least have been the longest familiar with people wearing clothes. The great majority of the women of Port Moresby have never worn anything but the ample grass kilt, and the great majority of the men have never worn anything but the scanty garb that meets the requirements of the local native standard of propriety. But if a lad be taken from the village into the service of a European he will expect to be given singlets and calico loin cloths, and is apparently much gratified if he gets a belt and a sash also. Whilst he remains in service he is always fully clad, or at least never appears without his loin cloth, and he gives the impression that he likes wearing clothes, and especially smart ones. A week or two after he has left his place you will meet him in the European settlement in true native costume or simply in a dingy old singlet. It is quite evident that the difference between his present and his late appearance does not trouble him in the least. In his notions about the value, if not the beauty, of personal ornaments the native does not appear to be yet influenced by European ideas. He wears beads at times, and his taste in making up strings of different coloured beads is good and original. But it may be pretty safely affirmed that there is hardly a native in New Guinea that would not value as an ornament an extra fine specimen of a shell armlet, or of a carved boar's tusk or dog's teeth necklace, more than he would any European jewel.

There are probably a good many obstacles that stand in the way of really improving the native. He is a human being of a race that is not acquainted with servitude; it is unlikely, therefore, however much he may be compelled to admit the superiority of the European in particular things, that he regards himself as a being as much inferior to the latter. He probably considers his ideas and mode of life as being more sensible than ours: he cannot, therefore, see much reason for altering. The conservative

element is strong in him, and "that which was good enough for my father is good enough for me" is certainly an article in the Papuan creed. It is at times a disappointment to Europeans to notice how a Papuan, who from the time that he was a mere lad until he is fairly advanced in manhood has been in the service of Europeans, will suddenly break off his connection with European life and become again a thorough native. The Port Moresby villages illustrate the conservative element in a marked manner. Owing to the lack of rich soil near the port the natives there have had to be fairly active to obtain a livelihood. Their life was never a very easy one, but the majority of the villagers lead the lives that their fathers did, and practically do not work for Europeans, although it may be more profitable to them to do so.

Unfortunately, with the Papuan, progress in acquiring knowledge of European ways and improvement are not the same thing. The native's intellect may be sharpened, but frequently the process has only been carried out at the expense of his character. There can be little doubt that the old fashioned conservative section of the Port Moresby villages is the respectable section. Its members as a whole are more honest and truthful, and practise the domestic virtues more thoroughly, than the members of the more advanced section.

The Papuan has been called avaricious. In the sense that he is eager to obtain things that he desires, and not backward in begging for them, he may be avaricious. But he is not avaricious in the sense that he has a strong propensity to save and accumulate and not to part with what he has acquired. He is not parsimonious as Europeans at times are. Some natives are apparently taking to hoarding money; but likely enough they will spend it after a time But most natives spend what they get, and in a rather thoughtless manner at times. A native will accumulate native ornaments, because to possess them adds to his importance. But the Papuan appears to be still a long way from that strong and persistent desire found in higher races which leads to the accumulation of property for the mere satisfaction of possessing it. Any avarice, therefore, that the Papuan may possess at present is not likely to be much of a factor in inducing him to lead a more laborious, energetic, and money-making life than he leads at present.

46. In Appendix EE* will be found a vocabulary of native dialects. The dialects, with the exception of the Motu, are those of inland tribes. The Sogeri inhabit a portion of the Astrolabe Range, about twenty-five miles east by a little north from Port Moresby. The Hagari and Boura tribes reside in the mountains, about thirty-five miles north-east of Port Moresby. Iworo is the name of one of the villages of a tribe that occupies a portion of the lower slopes and foothills on the north-eastern face of the

* Not printed.

main range close to The Gap. The Gap lies about north-east from Port Moresby. The Yoda Valley dialects is that of a tribe that lives close to the right bank of the Yoda River, about north-east of the Gap.

The Sogeri dialect was obtained by Mr. Ballantine. The Hagari is from two separate vocabularies, one made by Mr. Ballantine and the other by Messrs. Russell and MacDonald. The Iworo and Yoda Valley dialects are the work of Mr. MacDonald, but he had not much time to give to the subject.

Prior to the pacification effected by Government expeditions, there does not appear to have been much, if any, recent intercourse between any of the tribes whose dialects are given. In the late expedition of Messrs. Russell and MacDonald no trace of any communication between the Hagari and the Iworo people was discovered. The Iworo people and the Yoda Valley people were declared enemies, the latter being, as a rule, the aggressors. Judging by the dialects and other circumstances, it seems to be a reasonable conjecture that the Iworo are an offshoot from mountain tribes on the south side of the main range, and that the Yoda Valley people are akin to the people lying between the Yoda and the north-east coast.

By what series of migration the different tribes in British New Guinea come to be where they at present are is a subject upon which the knowledge of native history so far gained does not throw much light. In the case of most of the tribes living near to the coast for some fifty miles or so to the east of Port Moresby, the tradition is that they came from inland. The recent history of the country inland of Port Moresby seems to support this tradition. It is apparently clear that for years before the arrival of the Government the pressure was from inland towards the coast. The tribe wherever it was situated dreaded its inland neighbours more than its coastal neighbours. The Hagari and other neighbouring mountain tribes had by constant attacks depopulated a large extent of country lying between them and the coast. But the Hagari themselves are somewhat afraid of more inland tribes. In the portion of the coast that lies between Bilirupu and Du Faure Island, attacks by inland tribes on coastal tribes still take place, but the converse never happens. Something may perhaps be allowed for Government influence over the coastal tribes. But the general ignorance of the inland country which prevails amongst the coastal tribes, would seem to show that warlike expeditions were seldom if ever undertaken by them against their inland neighbours. A slight exception to this is found at Toaripi, and at Karama in the Gulf of Papua. The Toaripi people, or their near kindred, the Moviavi people, who live two or three miles inland, seem to have destroyed the more inland people that lived in the low flat country. They do not seem to have ever gone into the hills. They state that they know of one

village in the mountains, but it does not appear that any of the present generation have ever seen it. The average Karama man will relate a number of fables about the people that inhabit the country inland from that village, but he will admit that he never saw one. It seems, however, that years ago the Karama people were friends with their inland neighbours, but a quarrel about a woman put an end to this. Since then they have been enemies, but not very active ones. The Karama people acknowledge that it was their fault that led to the quarrel.

The north-east coast, being as yet more or less an unknown land, very little knowledge has been acquired of the relations between the coast and inland people. The Mambare natives when we first came into contact with them knew absolutely nothing about any inland tribe lying directly behind them. Apparently there was none nearer than the slopes or foothills of the Main Range. The Cape Nelson and Collingwood Bay people were enemies of the people on the Musa River. There are no traces of villages on the Musa nearer than fifteen miles or so from the mouth. The country between the villages of Collingwood Bay and the Goropo Range is uninhabited apparently, and the range itself, except the lower slopes of the south-eastern portion, seems to be on its north-eastern face a wilderness. A slight chain of communication appears to exist between the people living in the most western point of Collingwood Bay and the Musa River people. The intervening villages that form this chain are probably friendly with their nearest neighbours on each side. In Goodenough Bay the coast people were almost invariably hostile to their hill neighbours, even though the latter were but a few miles off.

The struggle for the means of subsistance seems hardly to have been a factor in the movements and action of tribes in New Guinea itself. The land could easily support its present population many times over if the country were populated in an even manner. There are large tracts of land bare of inhabitants. Here and there on the coast the cultivable land is becoming rather scarce, but even at these points there is abundance of spare ground inland. Naturally enough the coast people do not care to give up the variety of food and other articles which they obtain from the sea, and hence do not care to live far from the coast.

The comparative study of districts may throw light on the origin and migrations of tribes. But how it comes that tribes that seem to have halted here and there, at stages on the margin of the one stream of migration, have different dialects is not clear. According to the natives the current of migration from the Purari River in the Gulf of Papua, as far at least as Port Moresby, has along the coast been from west to east. Taking the coast from the mouth of the Purari to Galley Reach in Redscar Bay we find the dialects of the beach people to be diverse. The

differing dialects are as follows:—Apiopi, Orokolo, and Bailala the same dialect; Kerema, separate dialect; Silo, Wamai, Karama, one dialect; Toaripi, Lese, Yokea, the same dialect; Oiapu, separate dialect; Kivori, Maiva, Delena, Roro, Hisiu, one dialect. Of these dialects that of Toaripi is the most generally known throughout the eastern shores of the Gulf.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

47. A list of ministers of religion and justices of the peace, registered and empowered to celebrate marriages, is given in Appendix FF.* The list of ministers, as will be seen, comprises members of all the four missions of the Possession. The great bulk of the natives, even in the most settled districts, marry according to native customs. This is not altogether a state of things to be deplored. Doubtless it is much to be desired that the natives should take a more elevated view of marriage, and should regard it as a more lasting union than they appear to do at present. But the mode or form in which they marry is not likely to alter their ideas about the nature of the contract itself. Their customs seem for the present to suit them well enough. They marry at a very early age. Marriage with them appears to be a rule that has hardly any exception. The celibacy of adult Europeans is a matter which they do not comprehend. As in more civilised countries, marriages at times are due rather to the action of parents and relatives than to the inclination of the parties themselves. Conjugal affection between natives is perhaps seldom as deep as it is between people of higher races. But there are numerous instances of married couples living contentedly together until death separates them.

48. A list of the officers in the service of the Possession on the 30th June, 1899, exclusive of the staff of the "Merrie England," will be found in Appendix GG.*

Sir William MacGregor left the Possession on the 1st September, 1898. On the 22nd March, 1899, Mr. G. Ruthven Le Hunte, C.M.G., assumed administration as Lieutenant-Governor. In the interval between the above dates, Mr. F. P. Winter, C.M.G., administered the Government of the Possession.

Shortly after the beginning of the financial year—viz., in August, 1898, Mr. W. M. Shanahan, who was in charge of the Mambare district, died there of sickness. The district was then taken charge of by Captain A. W. Butterworth, who at the time was in the district. He was relieved by Mr. H. H. Stuart Russell, who remained in charge until the appointment of Mr. W. E. Armit.

* Not printed.

A few months later the service lost another officer in the person of Mr. H. W. De Lange, Sub-Collector of Customs at Daru, who was drowned in the estuary of the Fly River. Mr. De Lange, who was a young man, was a very promising officer, and had already done good work. Mr. T. Wood succeeded Mr. De Lange as Sub-Collector at Daru.

In April last the Possession lost the services of one of its pioneer officers, Mr. J. G. Allen, Government Printer. Mr. Allen came over from Queensland at the time of the establishment of the Possession to start and take charge of the Printing Department of the Colony. For over a decade Mr. Allen, as Government Printer and as general clerical assistant, carried out all duties entrusted to him ably and diligently. To the great regret of his brother officers, family cares compelled him to relinquish his post in British New Guinea. He was succeeded as Government Printer by Mr. James Wood.

Mr. B. W. Bramel, who was Government Agent for the Mekeo district at the beginning of the year, was transferred to the Port Moresby staff, and Mr. A. Giulianetti was appointed to theMekeo district.

Mr. A. M. Campbell was away on leave for four months of the year, during which period the south-eastern district was in charge of Mr. C. A. W. Monckton.

Mr. A. H. Symons was away on leave for two months, his duties as sub-collector being performed by Mr. A. MacAlpine, under the supervision of Mr. M. H. Moreton.

Mr. A. C. English was away from his district on sick leave for about three months, and during such period the agency was looked after by Mr. G. English.

Mr. B. A. Hely, owing to severe illness, has been out of the Possession since the beginning of March last, and Mr. T. Wood has been in charge at Daru since then.

I have, &c.,

FRANCIS P. WINTER.

His Excellency

THE HONOURABLE SIR S. W. GRIFFITH, G.C.M.G., &c., &c.,

Lieutenant-Governor of Queensland, Brisbane.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	"
264	Gambia	"
265	St. Helena	"
266	Leeward Islands	"
267	St. Lucia	"
268	Fiji	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
270	Malta	"
271	Gold Coast	"
272	Trinidad	"
273	Sierra Leone	"
274	Ceylon	"
275	British Solomon Islands	1898–99
276	Gibraltar	1898
277	Bahamas	"
278	British Honduras	"
279	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
280	Grenada	"
281	St. Vincent	"
282	Hong Kong	"
283	Jamaica	1898–99
284	Lagos	1898
285	Seychelles	"
286	Christmas and Cocos-Keeling Islands	1899
287	Straits Settlements	1898
288	Basutoland	1898–99
289	Niger Coast Protectorate	"
290	British Guiana	1897–98 and 1898–9.
291	Falkland Islands	1899.

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Report for 1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 336.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

REPORT FOR 1899-1900.

(For Report for 1898-1899, *see* No. 292.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1901.

LONDON:
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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
313	Basutoland	1899–1900
314	Hong Kong	1899
315	Southern Nigeria	1899–1900
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899–1900
318	British Guiana	,,
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899–1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda...	,,
323	St. Helena	,,
324	Sierra Leone	,,
325	Gambia	,,
326	Barbados	,,
327	Bahamas	,,
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
329	Malta	,,
330	Straits Settlements	,,
331	Fiji	,,
332	St. Lucia...	,,
333	Seychelles	,,
334	Falkland Islands	,,
335	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1900

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Report on operations in New Territory during 1900.

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No. 336.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

(For Report for 1898–1899, *see* No. 292.)

REPORT ON BRITISH NEW GUINEA FOR THE YEAR, 30TH JUNE, 1899, TO 30TH JUNE, 1900.

LEGISLATION.

Six Ordinances were passed during the year ending 30th June, 1900. Two of these are Appropriation Ordinances.

Ordinance No. IV. of 1899, "The Lands Ordinance of 1899," consolidates the previous law on the subject of the acquisition of lands by the Government, and their sale by it to other parties. It also gives effect to the arrangement entered into with the Premiers of the three contributing colonies in the previous year, under which it was decided that lands of considerable areas should be advertised in England and the Australian Colonies for six months before they could be disposed of, but that small areas of 640 acres or one square mile could be granted without advertisement, provided that they are not included in any area already advertised until the six months had elapsed; also that selectors actually in the Possession could obtain grants of ten square miles without advertisement, subject to a similar proviso.

Ordinance No. V. adopts, with some exceptions and modifications required by local circumstances, the "Mining Act of 1898" of Queensland; the fee for a miner's right is retained at 10*s.* in British New Guinea. In Queensland the Act has reduced it to 5*s.*

Ordinance No. I. of 1900, "The Native Labour Ordinance of 1900," consolidates the previous labour laws, and contains some additional provisions for the appointment of inspectors of labour and labour vessels. It also provides for a fee of 1*s.* per head on entering into a labour agreement before a magistrate or other officer, and a similar fee on being paid off. Greater elasticity is given to the operation of the labour laws by the appointment of inspectors with powers to cancel or vary contracts; but special exception is made of two provisions of the original contract which cannot be altered without the consent of the magistrate of the district before whom the labourers were

engaged—namely, the place at which the men are to be paid off; and, if so stated on the agreement, that the men are not allowed to re-engage without first returning to their homes. These two provisions are in the interests of the recruiters as well as the labourers, for in certain little known districts where men are taken away from their homes for the first time it is of the greatest importance that they should return to their relatives with the results of their labour, and if they did not it is very likely that not only would there be great difficulty in getting more from the same neighbourhood, but very probably some innocent person would lose his life. The magistrate of the district is the best person to know if this is necessary, and, if he considers that either is so, no one can alter the contract in these two respects without his written consent.

Ordinance No. III. of 1900 makes it a punishable offence under the "Arms, Liquor, and Opium Prohibition Ordinance, 1888," for a native to drink or have in his possession any intoxicating liquor, or to use or have in his possession any firearm or opium without a permit; this is a necessary corollary to the Principal Ordinance, which makes the supplying of such prohibited articles to natives an offence.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The abstract return of criminal cases tried in the Central Court shows a total of 78 cases, against 52 in the previous year. Of these 27 were committed from the Central District, 28 from the Eastern District, and 23 from the Western.

The Central Court held 15 criminal sessions—seven at Port Moresby, three at Samarai (East Division), two at Nivani (South-east Division), one at Mambare (North Division), one at Mukawa (East Division), and one at Daru (West Division).

Of the total number of cases tried, 33 were for murder, nine for indecent assault, three for other assaults, two for wounding, two for breach of prison, and one respectively for arson and larceny. There was no conviction for murder; the cases resolving themselves into manslaughter, there was consequently no sentence of death recorded. The maximum sentence was seven years' penal servitude.

On the Civil side of the Central Court there were 32 proceedings; of these 19 were applications to administer estates or for probate, four were appeals from Gold Wardens' decisions, three appeals from Petty Sessions and Small Debt Courts, and six were cases stated for opinion from the Woodlark Island Gold Field.

Of the summary offences, of which there were 297, against 205 in the previous year, 95 were from the Central, 171 from

the Eastern, and 31 from the Western Divisions. Of the whole 297 persons charged, 249 were convicted and 48 discharged. There were 19 civil suits in the Lower Courts. In the Magistrates' Courts for Native Affairs, there were 327 prosecutions for breaches of Native Regulations; 222 in the Central District, 48 in the Eastern, and 57 in the Western. There were 291 convictions, and 36 dismissals. The total number for the preceding year was 214, of whom 190 were convicted and 24 discharged.

The following tables of cases dealt with by the several Courts of the Possession have been prepared by the Chief Judicial Officer:—

MATTERS DEALT WITH JUDICIALLY DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1900.

CENTRAL COURT.

Criminal Jurisdiction.

Number of Persons Committed for Trial.	District from which Committed.	Persons Committed—how disposed of.
27	Central District	20 tried.
		2 discharged.
		5 awaiting trial.
28	Eastern District	24 tried.
		3 discharged.
		1 awaiting trial.
23	Western District	13 tried.
		1 died under committal.
		2 sent back to be dealt with summarily.
—		7 awaiting trial.
Total ... 78		

The Central Court held Fifteen Criminal Sessions at the places and times, and with the results undermentioned :—

Number of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	Port Moresby—1st August, 1899.		
2	Murder	2 guilty of manslaughter.	2 five years' penal servitude.
	Port Moresby—12th August, 1899.		
3	1 murder, 1 assault, 1 breaking gaol.	1 discharged, 1 guilty of assault, 1 guilty of breaking gaol.	1 one year, 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—29th August to 1st September, 1899.		
8	7 murder, 1 indecent assault.	7 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of indecent assault.	6 five years' penal servitude, 1 one year, and one 6 months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—13th October, 1899.		
1	Perjury	1 guilty of perjury	1 nine months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Daru—21st November to 24th November 1899.		
15	7 murder, 5 indecent assault, 1 wounding, 1 arson, 1 larceny.	7 guilty of manslaughter, 3 guilty and 2 not guilty of indecent assault, 1 guilty of wounding, 1 not guilty of arson, 1 guilty of larceny.	6 three years' penal servitude,, two 2 years, 2 one year, one six months, and 1 three months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—29th November, 1899.		
2	Murder	2 not guilty ...	—
	Samarai—5th and 6th December, 1899.		
3	2 murder, 1 assault	2 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of assault.	2 three years' penal servitude, 1 fined £10.

Criminal Sessions—*continued.*

Number of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	Nivani—8th December, 1899.		
2	1 murder, 1 carnally knowing girl under twelve.	1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of carnally knowing girl under twelve.	2 two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Mukawa—21st December, 1899.		
1	1 murder	1 discharged ...	—
	Mambare—27th to 30th December, 1899.		
2	2 indecent assault	2 guilty of indecent assault.	1 one year, 1 two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Samarai—8th January, 1900.		
1	1 wounding ...	1 guilty of wounding	1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—12th May, 1900.		
6	4 murder, 1 assault, 1 breaking gaol.	4 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of assault, 1 guilty of breaking gaol.	1 two years', 2 one year's, 1 six months', 1 three months', and 1 one month's imprisonment with hard labour.
	Samarai—11th June, 1900.		
1	Murder	1 Guilty of manslaughter.	1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Nivani—14th June, 1900.		
4	3 Murder, 1 perjury	3 Guilty of manslaughter, 1 discharged.	3 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—26th June, 1900.		
2	2 murder	2 guilty of manslaughter.	2 seven years' penal servitude.
Total 53			

Civil Business.

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings.
13	Applications by Curator for order to administer intestate estates.
6	Applications for probate and letters of administration.
4	Appeals Warden's Court, Murua Gold Field.
6	Cases for opinion, Murua Gold Field.
2	Appeals Court of Petty Sessions, Northern Division.
1	Appeal Small Debts Court, Eastern Division.
Total 32	

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Indictable Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Inquiry.
Central District	32	21 murder	17 committed, 4 discharged.
		2 assault	2 committed.
		4 breaking gaol ...	4 committed.
		1 indecent assault	1 committed.
		1 perjury	1 committed.
		7 rape	2 committed, 5 discharged.
Eastern District	29	12 murder	12 committed.
		3 assault	3 committed.
		1 indecent assault	1 committed.
		1 wounding ...	1 committed.
		5 larceny	5 committed.
		3 abduction ...	3 committed.
		1 perjury	1 committed.
		1 desecration of sepulchre.	1 committed.
		2 carnally knowing girl under 12.	1 committed, 1 discharged.
Western District	23	9 murder	9 committed.
		6 indecent assault	6 committed.
		2 assault	2 committed.
		3 wounding ...	3 committed.
		1 larceny	1 committed.
		1 arson	1 committed.
		1 rape	1 committed.
Total ...	84		

Summary Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central	95	26 assault	14 convicted, 12 dismissed.
		27 larceny	17 convicted, 10 dismissed.
		16 breach of Constabulary Ordinance.	14 convicted, 2 dismissed.
		4 breach of Labour Ordinance.	4 convicted.
		13 breach of Prisons Ordinance.	10 convicted, 3 dismissed.
		1 breach of Arms and Liquor Ordinance.	1 dismissed.
		1 obscene language	1 convicted.
		2 threatening language.	2 convicted.
		2 trespass	2 convicted.
		3 breach of Merchant Shipping Acts.	3 convicted.
Eastern ...	171	39 breach of Labour Ordinance.	36 convicted, 3 dismissed.
		67 larceny	63 convicted, 4 dismissed.
		2 destroying property.	2 convicted.
		13 breach of Arms and Constabulary Ordinance.	12 convicted, 1 dismissed.
		42 assault	37 convicted, 5 dismissed.
		3 breach of Prisons Ordinance.	3 convicted.
		1 threatening language.	1 convicted.
		2 drunk and disorderly.	2 convicted.
		2 breach of Arms and Liquor Ordinance.	2 convicted.
Western ...	31	15 breach of Labour Ordinance.	11 convicted, 4 dismissed.
		5 larceny	2 convicted, 3 dismissed.
		10 assault	10 convicted.
		1 breach of Constabulary Ordinance.	1 convicted.
Total ...	297		

Civil Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Action.	Result of Action.
Central... ...	3	3 debt	3 verdict for plaintiff.
Eastern... ...	9	8 debt	5 verdict for plaintiff, 1 verdict for defendant, 2 settled out of court.
		1 damages	1 settled out of court.
Western ...	7	7 debt	7 verdict for plaintiff.
Total ...	19		

NATIVE MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

Criminal Jurisdiction (Forbidden Acts).

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central)	222	4 spreading lying reports.	4 convicted.
		2 threatening language.	2 convicted.
		57 larceny	56 convicted, 1 discharged.
		36 assault	35 convicted, 1 discharged.
		12 perjury	12 convicted.
		1 extortion ...	1 convicted.
		11 adultery... ...	10 convicted, 1 discharged.
		13 sorcery	7 convicted, 6 discharged
		5 injury to persons	2 convicted, 3 discharged
		57 breach of Roads Regulation.	57 convicted.
		8 breach of Carriers Regulation.	8 convicted.
		12 breach of Burials Regulation.	12 convicted.
		4 disobeying magistrates' orders.	4 convicted.

Criminal Jurisdiction (Forbidden Acts)—continued.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
No. 3 (Eastern)	48	28 adultery	23 convicted, 5 discharged.
		1 breach of Destruction of Cocoanut Regulation.	1 convicted.
		3 disobeying magistrates' orders.	3 convicted.
		2 perjury	2 convicted.
		3 extortion ...	3 convicted.
		9 sorcery	5 convicted, 4 discharged.
		1 larceny	1 convicted.
		1 assault	1 convicted.
No. 1 (Western)	57	40 adultery ...	26 convicted, 14 discharged.
		8 assault	7 convicted, 1 discharged.
		3 sorcery	3 convicted.
		2 spreading lying reports.	2 convicted.
		4 threatening language.	4 convicted.
Total ...	327		

Civil Jurisdiction (Civil Claims).

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Claim.	Result of Action.
No. 2 (Central)	11	7 debt	Verdict for complainant.
		4 damages for injuring property.	Verdict for complainant.
No. 3 (Eastern)	1	1 damages	Verdict for complainant.
No. 1 (Western)	Nil.		
Total ...	12		

Total Number of Criminal Proceedings.

Proceedings.	Number.
In Central Court	78
In Courts of Petty Sessions (exclusive of 78 cases sent up to Central Court).	303
In Native Magistrates' Courts	327
In all Courts	708

Total Number of Civil Proceedings.

Proceedings.	Number.
In Central Court	32
In Courts of Petty Sessions	19
In Native Magistrates' Courts	12
In all Courts	63

VISITS OF INSPECTION.

The Lieutenant-Governor returned from Australia on 13th November, 1899, and on the 19th left for Daru and the west in the "Merrie England." From Daru a trip was made along the coast in the small steam launch and two whaleboats, while the steamer went to Thursday Island. Saibai and Boigu, islands inside the Queensland boundary, within a stone's throw of these shores, were visited on the way to Bugi, the furthest Government station on the west, on the Mai Kussa part of the wide channel which forms Strachan Island. There had been an unfortunate collision, attended with loss of life, between the native constabulary at Bugi and an inland tribe, Dimiri, in which several of the latter were killed or wounded. A story had been circulated by the London Missionary Society teacher at Saibai on, as he stated, accounts given by the mainland natives to the Saibai people, that the police had been guilty of gross treachery in pretending to have a religious service in the Dimiri village, which they had gone to visit in a friendly way, and had shot

down the villagers unawares. A careful inquiry was made into the case by Captain Barton, the Acting Commandant of the Constabulary (Captain Butterworth being away on leave, and subsequently at the time of writing employed as an officer of the Queensland Contingent of the Imperial Bushmen in South Africa); and it is satisfactory to be able to say that the story was proved to have been absolutely false, the facts being, as was admitted by one of the leading Dimiri men who came to Bugi to meet the Lieutenant-Governor later, after a second collision with the police, that both attacks were entirely unprovoked, and were ordered by the chief, who lost his life in the second one. As there were rumours that the Tugeri head hunters from Dutch New Guinea had been seen or heard of in the neighbourhood, the number of constabulary at Bugi was increased from six to eight; this detail is only mentioned to show with what slender resources the work of protecting these far-away remnants of cruelly depopulated tribes, otherwise completely at the mercy of these savage marauders, has to be effected; the result has been satisfactory as far as the vicinity of the Government Station at Bugi is concerned, for no attack has been made on it or the people sheltering under its protection; but there have been two or more disastrous raids by the Tugeri on the natives on the Morehead River since the time of this visit, the first of which falls within the period under report, and which will be mentioned later.

Eastern Division and South-Eastern.

The Lieutenant-Governor returned to Port Moresby on 28th November, and left again, accompanied by His Honour Mr. F. Winter, C.J.O., on the 2nd December for the east. At Samarai Dr. Cecil Vaughan was appointed to act as Medical Officer and Assistant Magistrate of the Eastern, North-East, and Northern Districts, and joined the "Merrie England" on her trip. The Conflict Group of islets, which is under lease to Mr. Wickham, was visited on the way to Nivani, the headquarters of the Resident Magistrate of the South-Eastern Division. From Nivani the party went to Misima (St. Aignans), the Lachlan Islands, which had not been visited by the "Merrie England" for several years, and from there to Woodlark Island, where the two goldfields at Kulumedau and Busai were visited. It was decided that mining leases should not for the present be granted at Busai, as it was still an alluvial field, but on a subsequent visit this decision was altered, and the field opened for leases, as at Kulumedau. As there was considerable confusion about the boundaries of the mining leases, and no possibility of getting them settled without proper surveys, an attempt to do so was made by the appointment of a private surveyor from Samarai, but the result was not satisfactory, and other

arrangements had subsequently to be made by employing a partially qualified surveyor on the work. This proved much more satisfactory, and at the time of writing this Report one of the new staff of Government surveyors has gone there. The Trobriands Group were next visited, and a meeting was arranged by Mr. Moreton, Resident Magistrate for the Eastern Division, with the help of Rev. Mr. Fellows, of the Wesleyan Mission, at Kavatari, at which the chiefs and principal men concerned in the rising against Enamakala and the attack on Mr. Moreton, described in last year's Annual Report, were present. Enamakala himself was unable, owing to ill-health, to come to the meeting, and although he was subsequently restored to his position, and his village rebuilt and proper amends made by the offending persons, he never recovered the effects of his temporary deposition, and the Government has learnt with regret that he has since died. The chiefs were very strongly cautioned about their behaviour in the future, and they promised obedience, but the large population of that group is so unstable that it will soon be necessary to station a Government officer and some constabulary there. Since the visit in question was made they have been fighting and spearing each other about fish.

Northern Division.

From the Trobriands Islands the steamer went to the north-east coast, visiting on the way the Amphlett Group; the Wesleyan Mission Station at Bwoidoga, on Goodenough Island, in charge of the Rev. Mr. Fletcher; and also the Anglican Mission Station at Mukawa, on Cape Vogel. The mouth of the Mambare was reached on 23rd December, and Christmas Day was spent on the river. Tamata Station was reached the following day. There had been a gathering of natives there for sports and dances, and several canoes were met on their way home with gorgeously decked crews in full panoply of feathers and paint, a great contrast to the few people met on the visit to the river the year before. The Anglican Mission have established a station at Umi Village, a little below the junction of the Tamata Creek with the Mambare. The Rev. Mr. Hines was there at the time of this visit, but was in very bad health. His place has since been temporarily filled by the Rev. Copland King, who has done so much service for the Mission. The natives are settling down quietly on the river, and planting large gardens; they sell a quantity of food to the Europeans at Tamata. The "Merrie England" left on her way back on the 30th, and anchored off the mouth of the Opi, where a visit was paid to Tabe, the chief of Koila. Cape Nelson was reached on the following day.

It had been decided to establish a Government Station on this Cape, which commands the coast from the mouth of the Musa to

the south of Collingwood Bay, and would form a most useful halfway stopping-place between Samarai and the Mambare. It was quite time that something was done to keep the large population of the fjords, who were the terror of the coast, under control, which was impossible without stationing a magistrate there, for they were out of reach of either the magistrate at Samarai or Mambare, and the place was now thoroughly inspected with a view to selecting the site for the station. The steamer was taken right to the head of several of the long deep fjords especially to afford the natives an object lesson, as they probably thought that their water fastnesses were accessible only to their canoes. Friendly intercourse was established with them at each part of the Cape which was visited. At only one place was any hostility shown, the fighting men grouping themselves on the tops of the commanding points and rocks armed with very long spears, but there was no collision, and they eventually came to barter sugar-cane and native food for tobacco, like the rest. A good site was selected on one of the sloping promontories facing due east and about the centre of the Cape, which consists of a number of these finger-like points of the spurs from the volcanic peak of Mount Trafalgar, beginning to the south of Porlock Harbour on the north, and gradually circling round to the northern end of Collingwood Bay on the south. There is likely to be a good future for Cape Nelson if the Possession is developed in that direction. It will be the natural centre for the trade of the Musa and Kumusi Rivers. It possesses good harbours, fresh water in abundance, and good planting and grazing land. The formation of the promontories lends itself especially favourably to the latter, as it would only be necessary to fence across the head of the tongue of land, the sea affording a natural boundary for the rest. The natives of the part selected for the station were informed that the Government intended to establish one there with a Resident Magistrate, and that they would be paid for any land taken by it for the purpose. After raising various objections they were left with the assurance that the Government meant what it said, and that when the "Merrie England" returned she would bring the magistrate to stay. The Rev. Mr. Abbot, of the Anglican Mission at Wanigela, in Collingwood Bay, was of great assistance, and got a comfortable native house put up for the magistrate before he arrived. Proceeding south, Goodenough Bay was visited. The Anglican Mission stations at Boiana in the bay and the head station of the mission at Wedau in Bartle Bay and Taupota were visited. Sewa Bay, a large landlocked harbour on the west side of Normanby Island, was inspected with a view to its possible utilisation for a township in the east, which is so much wanted to relieve little overgrown Samarai. It is to be feared that it will be found to be too much out of the way. The harbour is certainly a magnificent one, and there is plenty of land for a township. Expert advice should

be taken as to its entrance and approach from the sea for sailing vessels in all weathers, which is of the greatest importance in selecting sites for townships on the sea.

Western Division (Morehead River).

The Lieutenant-Governor returned to Port Moresby on 9th January, and left again on 10th February for the west, the "Merrie England" having in meantime been sent over to Cooktown for mails, &c., and arrived at Daru 12th February; after settling the necessary work in hand there, the steamer proceeded to Dauan Island, the last of the high, volcanic-peaked, boulder-covered islands that reach from Cape York to the edge of the flat shores of South-West New Guinea. Like Saibai and Boigu on either hand it is still part of Queensland, but is within the promised rectification of the boundary, which, having received the approving Order of the Queen in Council, is still waiting for the Government of Queensland to pass the necessary Act (*see* Annual Report, 1897-98, p. xlii.). As the object of the expedition was to search the coast and the Morehead River for the Tugeri, who had been heard of there, the steamer was left at Dauan; and the party proceeded with the large launch "Ruby" and four boats on 16th, with 33 armed native constabulary. Mr. English, the Government Agent of the Rigo District, who had been appointed to act temporarily as Resident Magistrate of the Western District, and Captain Barton, Commandant, A.N.C., accompanied the Lieutenant-Governor. After patrolling the Wassi Kussa and the Maikussa, and finding only traces of Tugeri camps, the party went on to the Morehead, experiencing the same difficulty in finding its mouth as Sir W. McGregor had done on his first visit there. The river was ascended about 70 miles before any natives were seen; although several recent Tugeri camps were found, it was evident that they had left the river. It was found that they had made a successful raid about six weeks before, and gone away with their victims' heads and women and children captives. Natives were seen on the right bank on the third day, remnants of the Toibaba tribe; they had been visited by Sir W. McGregor, and were most friendly. Detailed information was obtained from them of the massacre of the Sanana people, which was forwarded in a separate report with the object of special representations being made through the proper channels to the Government of the Netherlands, which, it is satisfactory to say, had or helped to produce a good effect, for they have quite recently sent their own Resident to make inquiry into the subject of these raids—one occurred actually on the river a few days before he and the Magistrate of the Western Division (Mr. Murray) got there, and they found fifteen headless bodies of the Tugaribio people, who camped with the Government party on their visit now under report; but this matter

as well as the description of the fight between Mr. Murray's boat's crew of six native constables against a force of Tugeri canoes, in which they captured or sank five canoes and routed the enemy, will belong to next year's report. The party proceeded one day further up the river, when the "Ruby" broke down, and then returned to Bugi, and finally rejoined the "Merrie England" at Dauan on 5th March, after an absence of 17 days occupied on most interesting duty. The steamer then proceeded to Thursday Island for coal, &c., and returned to Daru on 11th March.

Western Division (Fly Estuary).

On the 13th the Lieutenant-Governor and party left with the steam launch "Ruby," which had been sent direct from Dauan to Daru, and two boats, for the estuary of the Fly River, and arrived that evening at Saguane, the headquarters of the London Missionary Society Mission in the west. Here they were very kindly welcomed by the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers, the latter of whom has since died, to the regret of all who knew her; and the whole Possession sympathises with her universally respected husband. The school was inspected with very satisfactory result. Mr. Chalmers had decided on removing the Mission Station to Daru; Saguane is rapidly disappearing before the encroaching water, and from what was observed at all the places on Kiwai Island it seems likely that the whole island will ultimately share the same fate. From Kiwai Island the party went to the village of Baramura, on the mainland, where there had been a slight collision between the villagers and some of the boat's crew from the Mission Station at Saguane, who had apparently provoked the resentment of the villagers by trying to get one of their idols. One boy had been slightly wounded by an arrow, and they had decamped leaving their boat behind. A native constable, who happened to be on leave near there, and a village policeman from one of the Kiwai villages, settled the matter, got back the boat, and nothing was probably needed but a cautionary visit from the Magistrate when an opportunity should occur. Instead of this the officer then at Daru (since left the service) proceeded with an armed force to Baramura, the villagers fled; he burned the long "dubu" or communal dwelling, a building over 600 feet in length, capable of accommodating probably 300 inhabitants, three other detached houses, killed the pigs, and made an address to those present on the example he had made in the name of the Government. After a little while, very friendly relations were established with the chief and his people, and some tools were given them to assist them in rebuilding their village. From Kiwai the party returned to Daru, and from there visited Parama Village, on Bampton Island, and a large new village which is being built on the site of old Mawatta on the mainland side of Bampton Passage. They returned to Port Moresby on 23rd March.

North-Eastern Division (Cape Nelson).

On the 30th March the Lieutenant-Governor left Port Moresby to establish the Government Station on Cape Nelson, and arrived there with Mr. Monckton, who had been appointed to be Resident Magistrate for the North-Eastern Division, on 4th April; Mr. Abbot had had a good native house built on the site chosen for the Government reserve. The Government flag was hoisted, and the Magistrate left with a small force of constabulary to sow the first seeds of law and order amongst the spearmen of the fjords and fells. It is satisfactory to know that the authority of the Government has been quietly and successfully impressed on them, and in spite of some signs of hostility the natives have evidently recognised that it is best to be on good terms with it. The boundaries of the North-Eastern District are from Cape Vogel on the south to Cape Endaiadere on the north, a coast-line of about 150 miles; the district also includes the interior, but it has been arranged that the river system of the Kumusi River which flows into the Northern District shall, together with the tribes along its whole course, be considered as wholly in the Northern District.

As it was found that one of the most prominent peaks of Mount Trafalgar was still unnamed on the chart, it has been called "Mount Britannia" after the flagship of Lord Nelson's second in command at the great naval victory. The great mountain on the north-east coast, on that side of Mount Suckling, and lying to the south-east of Cape Nelson, known by its native name as "Goropu," has been named "Mount McGregor," after the distinguished late Lieutenant-Governor, whose intrepid explorations of the mountains of the interior most certainly entitle his name to be recorded in one of the finest of them. The party returned to Port Moresby on 12th April.

While the "Merrie England" was away at Cooktown a visit was made to the Laloki and Brown Rivers, with Mr. Ballantine, the Assistant Resident Magistrate, and Mr. McDonald, the Overseer of Works. Several of the mountain chiefs from the interior between the Astrolabe and the main range, some of whom had not been to Port Moresby before, visited the Lieutenant-Governor at Government House.

Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Divisions.

On 22nd May the Lieutenant-Governor, with his Honour Judge Winter and Mr. Russell, Chief Government Surveyor, left in the "Merrie England" for the east, and were present with several others at a very interesting ceremony at the opening of the new memorial church which has been erected by the London Missionary Society to the memory of the native teachers of the Mission who came to New Guinea, and who have died during the 25 years that the Mission has been established here.

The Government Station at Rigo was inspected, and three of the villages inland; and then the "Merrie England" continued her cruise along the coast. Hula was visited, and the disputed boundary between the lands of Hula and Babaka people was decided. At Kerepunu the party were hospitably entertained by the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Pearse, of the London Missionary Society, and visited several of the villages on Hood Lagoon; from there the villages of Aroma district in Keakaro Bay were visited, and Vilirupu and Marshall's Lagoon, and the Imilai River. Chesthunt Bay and Mawi River were next visited; from there they went to Cloudy Bay and Table Bay, the meeting point of the Central and Eastern Districts. It will be necessary to form a Government Station and Sub-district somewhere along the coast to the east of the Rigo District, for there is nothing between that and Samarai, 220 miles away. The Amazon Islands and Mailu (Toulon Island) at the western end of the Eastern District were visited, and from there Milport Bay and Mullens Harbour, and Fyfe Bay, where three murders of women were reported; and it was settled that Captain Barton and the Resident Magistrate, Mr. Moreton, should return there about them. The party went on to Suau and Modeiwa Bay, and arrived at Samarai on 8th June.

They left for the South-Eastern District on the 13th, calling at Bentley Island, and arrived at Nivani the following day. Accompanied by Mr. Campbell, the Resident Magistrate, the Lieutenant-Governor went to the Wesleyan Mission Station at Panaeti in charge of Mr. Williams, and rejoined the steamer on her way to Misima (St. Aignans) and Woodlark Island. Mr. Bramell, the new Warden, had made a good house at the head of the harbour, which affords a much better approach to Kulumedau than by the creek of that name. Mr. Russell was left on the goldfield to arrange the surveys of the mining claims, which had, as has been said above, got into great confusion. It was decided to open Busai field to leases. The party returned to Samarai on 19th, and left for Port Moresby on the same day, and arrived on the following evening.

Eastern and North-Eastern Divisions.

The "Merrie England" went over to Cooktown, and meanwhile the Lieutenant-Governor visited, in company with Mr. Ballantine, Assistant Resident Magistrate, the villages between Redscar Head and Port Moresby. The steamer returned on the 2nd July, and the Lieutenant-Governor left again with his Honour (now Sir) Francis Winter for Samarai on 4th, calling at Fyfe Bay for Captain Barton, who had been successful in arresting some of the persons implicated in the murders of the women that have been alluded to. The party left Samarai on the 7th for the North-East Coast, calling at Wedau and Cape Vogel,

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and arrived at Cape Nelson on 9th. Mr. Monckton had made considerable progress with his station. He had had some trouble with the natives, who had drugged his men with some kind of narcotic, and at one time it looked as if the station would be rushed, but by a firm front and patience a collision was averted, and when the "Merrie England" arrived the natives were quite friendly. A trader had just been assaulted and robbed on board a small cutter by the people of the Winiapi tribe at one of the inlets on the south side of the cape. The steam launch and a couple of boats went to the place, and the party were successful in arresting two of the chiefs of the implicated tribe, whom it was decided to keep under detention at the station until the stolen property was returned and the principal person implicated in the assault on the trader was given up. On the 10th July the party left for Mambare, and arrived at Tamata Station on the 13th. The station had been wonderfully improved and brightened up by Mr. Rohu, a naturalist, who had been acting for Mr. Elliott as European officer in charge of the station under the Magistrate. Tamata was left again on the morning of the 14th, and the ship was reached the same evening, and left again for Cape Nelson on the following morning, having on board Busimaiwa, the Duvira chief, who was in trouble for making war on his own account against his Gira neighbours and for escaping from custody at Tamata Station, where the Magistrate had confined him. He had surrenderd himself to Captain Barton, and was tried by his Honour the Judge, and was sentenced to a short term of imprisonment, which it was directed by the Lieutenant-Governor should take the form of detention under surveillance of the Magistrate at Cape Nelson. On the way Holnicote Bay, or rather the southern end of it known as Gona Bay, was visited, and, although the people were frightened at first, friendly relations with them were established. The steamer arrived at Cape Nelson on 16th; it was found that all the property stolen from the trader had been returned, on which one of the two Winiapi chiefs was ordered to be released and the other as soon as the ringleader in the assault was given up. The man in question was on the point of spearing the trader, but was stopped by the others, who said that it would bring the Government police on them; it is satisfactory to know that already they have begun to realise that there is a stronger power in that little handful of men under the solitary white officer in the native house with the blue ensign on the far side of the Cape. But for that, the trader would, as he believed, have certainly lost his life. It is most probable that they did not think the Government would concern itself in such a matter as the taking of a few articles of trade, and an old rifle (with one cartridge), which constituted the stock-in-trade and the weapons of defence of an itinerant white buyer of pearl-shell; and the return of all the articles was a good sign of their respect for the new power amongst them. The opportunity had for a long time

been wanted for visiting Oro Bay, the scene of Dr. Loria's raid in the pursuit of science, which had led most probably to the attack on Mr. Elliott's party there in 1898; it was therefore now visited, and, after a little while, very friendly communication was established with the people. A visit was also made to the village of the warlike tribe "Okein," on the north side of the Cape, and friendly intercourse established with them. Cape Nelson was left on 19th, with a strong feeling of satisfaction with the progress that had been made in the three months since the establishment of the station there. Calling at Cape Vogel, the party next went to Dobu, the headquarters of the Wesleyan Mission, under the Rev Mr. Bromilow; from there to Samarai, from which the "Merrie England" went to fetch Mr. Russell from Woodlark, meeting him at sea on the way; he had been successful in starting the mining surveys on a better line. In the interval visits were made to the London Mission Society training school at Kwato; Mr. and Mrs. Abel, however, were away in England; and to Sariba, an adjacent island, where Mr. Meek is establishing live-stock, which thrive wonderfully well on the grass there. There had been further trouble at the Trobriands, some people having been killed in a fight about fish, to which allusion has been made. The party returned to Port Moresby on the 28th July.

While the Government party had been away there had been a massacre in the interior, on the Kemp Welsh River, where the people of Seremina had killed eighteen of the Korohi tribe. Mr. Ballantine had very promptly proceeded there with such police as were available, and succeeded in arresting the chief of Seremina; his people expressed surprise at the Government having taken any notice of it, and said if they had known that it would have done so, they would not have attacked the Korohi. It is a source of satisfaction to mark the material progress which has been made in the spread of the authority of the Government in the various parts of the Possession during the past year. It has been an unfortunate one for the people. Owing to the introduction into Samarai from Cooktown of the whooping-cough by two white children, the vessel having a clean bill of health, though the sickness was rife at Cooktown at the time, lives innumerable have been, and are being, sacrificed to a blunder which may be compared to the fatal introduction of measles, "a child's complaint," into Fiji, resulting in an estimated loss of 40,000 natives. In this case, unfortunately, there was no medical officer at Samarai, and no one realised the danger; from that centre of traffic in the east the malady spread with frightful rapidity, and swept first the coasts and is now ravaging the interior. But the mischief does not end there, for as each village is attacked, and as no death can in the belief of the native be the result of any natural cause but must have been compassed by some unknown enemy who can only be discovered by witchcraft, the sorcerer is at once consulted, and some

unfortunate village of some other tribe is designated as the culprit, and a midnight massacre of innocent people is the result. This was the actual experience of Captain Barton and Mr. English on a recent expedition inland to the head waters of the Kemp Welsh. There was a severe drought in parts of the Possession which told seriously on the food supply and left the people less able to withstand the epidemics of pleurisy and pneumonia which often accompany the change of season here; the list of victims to these was unusually high this year.

It was again, unfortunately, not possible to visit Mekeo District this year before the Lieutenant-Governor left for the annual official visit to Brisbane.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS.

Central Division.

In the Annual Report of last year mention was made of the robbing of a party of the Members of the Sacred Heart Mission in the interior of the Mekeo District by a mountain tribe which had not been visited before. It was thought advisable that a Government party should go there, and on 15th July Dr. Blayney, the resident magistrate of the Central Division, accompanied by Mr. Giulianetti, the Government agent of the Mekeo District, and 12 native constabulary, proceeded inland from Hall Sound to the Mafula and Iaroga districts, in the first of which the robbery had taken place and the chief of Iarogo had murdered one of his wives. Dr. Blayney's report of the expedition is full of interesting details. They had very hard work in the broken mountainous country which they traversed. On August 2nd they reached their highest points, 6,140 feet, near which "we saw the playground of the bowerbird (photograph taken), snowdrops, and orchids," and the next day passed the spot where the mission party had been robbed, and came in sight of Mafula villages; an advance party of constables was sent on with orders to arrest any one they found in the village, and on the arrival of the magistrate he found a prisoner in handcuffs; the police were searching the gardens, and shortly afterwards shots were heard at a village, Chivua, some distance off, and the natives were seen running away from it. The police reported afterwards that on their arrival at the village they were attacked with spears and clubs and had to shoot in self defence. Some more arrests were made, and messages sent to tell the people that the object of the visit was to recover the stolen property, and that no one coming to bring food to the party or to return any of the stolen articles would be arrested, but that anyone who was seen with a spear would be. Some of the lost articles were found in the village. Early the next morning the party had an alarm from finding that the natives had crept up to

within 50 yards of the camp without being observed by the sentries. On some shots being fired they retired a short distance into the scrub. The Chivua people seem to have been the most troublesome. One of the corporals who got separated from his party was attacked in the bed of the creek by five men, one of whom threw his spear at him, on which the corporal shot him, and the others decamped; another corporal had been attacked with his party by the Kenedama people and had to shoot four in self defence; they were evidently quite ignorant of the power or effect of firearms. The Chivua people then sent a message to say that they wanted to return the stolen property and make peace. They brought some of the property, and a present was given them in return for food, and every effort made to induce their chief to come into the camp. The Kenedama continued hostile, and their villages were visited and searched. The Government party then visited the Chivua village and saw the chief. Many of the people were plastered with mud as a sign of mourning for one of the chiefs who had been shot. His body was seen placed in the fork of a large tree, boxed in with planks, and his bamboo pipe, tomahawk, perineal band, &c., hung in front of it. Dr. Blayney remarks that the males wear a broad perineal band, that of the females being narrow and plaited. A corporal and party were sent to visit Kopuna village, on the summit of a hill to the south-east of the camp, with a message to the people to come in and make friends. From the camp the villagers were seen preparing to give the police a hostile reception. They had to fire at one of the villagers, who was wounded in the arm, and ran away. The Chivua chief visited the camp with some of his people, and a message was sent through him to the Kopuna people. The weather was continuously wet and the party broke camp on the 14th August. On one of the drizzling mornings the phenomenon of the Hartz Mountains, known as "The Spectre of the Brocken," was seen. Four prisoners who had been arrested were taken away, it being explained that they would be taken to Port Moresby to see the Governor and would be soon sent back. On the 18th, however, two of the prisoners escaped, an attempt on the part of the other two being unsuccessful; and the following day the senior corporal was sent back to Mafula with nine constables and some carriers, with orders to arrest six Mafula men as hostages for the two that had escaped. This was a very doubtful act of discretion, and the result was most unfortunate. The corporal arrived at the village but found no Mafula people to arrest, so advantage was taken of the presence there of some of the friendly Chivua to arrest six of them instead. No doubt the native corporal thought he was only carrying out his orders. The Chivua villagers were not unnaturally greatly excited at seeing such a gross piece of treachery, as it would undoubtedly appear to them, perpetrated by the Government people with whom they had been induced to make friends, and to supply them with

food; and they at once retaliated, gathering supports from the other villages close to. The police were surrounded and attacked both in the village and on their way back to the main party; at least six of the natives were shot before they finally retreated. The corporal rejoined the magistrate on 25th. A carrier was lost on the return journey, and it was thought that he would probably be killed and eaten; search was made for him without success. On reaching Hiba a message was sent to the chief of Iarogo, who was wanted for the murder of his wife, to come, and in the meantime it was decided to go on to Sekuba on the Upper Vanappa, to inquire into a murder reported to have been committed by the Sekuba and Iritiomone natives. Sekuba was reached on 29th August. It was found on inquiry that about three months before the natives of Iritiomone had caught a Sekuba native while fishing near the native suspension bridge over the Vanappa, and had killed him to avenge the killing of one of their own people a long time ago. The Sekuba people then cut the suspension bridge down, since which they have not been on friendly terms. Dr. Blayney decided to visit Iritiomone and bring about peace between the villagers, but was unable to effect a crossing over the Venappa, the suspension bridge being broken, and after several unsuccessful attempts to bridge it by felling trees, in one of which a constable got his ribs broken on the far side, and was with great difficulty got back, the party had to return to Sekuba. Communication was, however, eventually secured with the Iritiomone by sending a party of police who crossed the river by a raft. They returned with some of the villagers but the chief was too frightened to come. An inquiry was held into the killing of the Sekuba native, and the magistrate explained that the Government no longer permitted retaliatory murders, but that as this was the first case against them there would be no arrests. The peace-making ceremony, which is described in Dr. Blayney's Report, was gone through, and the two tribes made friends again to their mutual satisfaction. A rather amusing incident occurred on their way down the river, when the chief of Karama with several of his men met them; he had seen Mr. Giulianetti before and was greatly delighted on seeing him again, but he was much disappointed when he learnt that they were not going to visit his village. "I have killed no one, and yet you won't come to see me"; he was promised a visit at a near date. Dr. Blayney mentions that a woodcock flew over their camp one morning. On the 4th September, seven of the eight prisoners (two of the four originally arrested at Mafula, and the six Chivua hostages) were discovered to be missing when their guards woke; the eighth was caught in the act of freeing himself. They had experienced little difficulty; fortune had been most kind; the guards had taken their belts off preparatory to going to sleep and hung them within reach of the prisoners; the keys of their handcuffs lay inside the unbuttoned flap of their pouch; the rest was a matter of ease. The

seventh man evidently did not behave well or he would have freed the remaining one who, unfortunately, was just a minute too late. Nothing was seen of the fugitives, a finale to an affair which was very unfortunate from beginning to end. Dr. Blayney describes some of the journey back as the worst he has had in the Possession. At one village a small house just large enough for one man was found in which anyone who gets sick isolates himself from his neighbours—a peculiar form of quarantine amongst natives.

On 12th the party reached Hall Sound. The weather had been very unfavourable for collecting; the botanical specimens were lost or irreparably damaged in the flooded rivers; a few ornithological specimens in very good order were brought to Port Moresby and forwarded to the British Museum; there were, however, no new species in the collection. It was also very unfortunate that Mr. Giulianetti's photographic plates were spoilt by the wet.

The solitary prisoner was handed over to the head gaoler, but he was allowed to remain at large, and shortly taken back to Mafula to explain that the six Chivua men had been arrested by mistake, and to make some amends for the loss of life which unfortunately had resulted from it. On the whole, however, this expedition to a part hitherto untouched by the Government will have had a very good effect.

In November an expedition was made by Dr. Blayney and Mr. English to the interior of the Cloudy Bay District; the watershed of two rivers, one flowing north-east, the other south-east, was crossed, and it was surmised that the former of these (Kevela) runs into the Adau, and that the Adau cuts through a gap in the Main Range between Mount Suckling and Mount Clarence, and finally joins the Musa (north-east coast). This has been since found to be the case. Visits were made to part of the Gulf districts, and one of the mouths of the Purari River was ascended, and the Maipua and Apiope villages visited. The powerful Koriki tribe was left for a future visit with a sufficient force in case of such a collision as occurred with them on the occasion of Sir William McGregor's visit there in 1894.

An expedition was also made by Dr. Blayney to the district behind Vilirupu, where the murder of some of the Oluone people by the Toabure natives had been reported to the Lieutenant-Governor on his visit to Vilirupu. The Magistrate was not successful in making any arrests.

Rigo District (Central Division).

Mr. English, the Government Agent of the district, was appointed to act as Resident Magistrate of the Western Division in the beginning of the year, and did not return to it until

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after June. His duties were performed satisfactorily by Mr G. English, his cousin. A considerable amount of improvement to the roads was effected, especially by rebuilding a bridge over a difficult creek between the Mission Station at Vatorata and the landing at Kappa Kappa, so that "now even in the wet season one can drive up to the Mission Station." Hitherto the road was a regular quagmire, and impassable during the wet season; two other bridges will have to be rebuilt before the road can be called finished. The work at the Government Station is difficult owing to the want of prisoners; Dr. Blayney says "the local natives respect the law to such an extent that there are practically no local prisoners," a tribute not only to the good behaviour of the people, but also to the administration of the law by the district officers. The people of the marine villages at Kappa Kappa, although law-abiding, are notorious for their indifference and unwillingness to do anything for their own improvement or to assist others in anything. It was remarkable that, although they have had the benefit of the peace and order which the Mission has afforded them for many years, they were the only ones who never lent a hand's turn towards the erection of the memorial church at Vatorata, at their very doors.

The report of the Government Agent states that the coast tribes had been quiet and on good terms with their neighbours and with white men going inland, but that there had been several murderous raids committed inland as well as single murders, and that there had been a great deal of sickness amongst the natives.

An expedition was made in July, 1899, with the Commandant of the Constabulary, to the back of Cloudy Bay, to arrest the Barua murderers of some of the people of Huwai; three arrests were made. On 15th August the Government Agent made a trip to the Seme and Dagota tribes to make some arrests, but was unsuccessful; "the country was," he says, "dreadfully rough, and the natives able to see a party moving about hours before their villages could be reached."

On 14th November the Government Agent accompanied the Resident Magistrate on another expedition to the back of Cloudy Bay, in consequence of a raid by the natives of Keveri on the Barua people. Mr. English thus describes the Keveri Valley: "A walk of three days (from the Barua country) over rough country and high mountains took us across the main range into a magnificent valley, ten by fifteen miles, of undulating open grass country. . . . The valley is a most healthy one and well adapted for European settlement, well watered, and good pasture country. The two main sources of the Musa River run through the valley, the 'Wavela' and the 'Adau.' The former we prospected in a few places, but no traces of gold were to be found." Mr. English reports that there has been very little

trading in the district, and a great falling off in the indiarubber and marine products during the year, owing to the laziness of the natives, who will not work unless forced to do so.

Mr. G. F. English, who acted as Government Agent while Mr. A. English was in the west, reports that on the 19th June he accompanied the resident magistrate to Mekanigoro in the Kemp Welsh District, to the south-east of Mount Shillinglaw, the people of that place having been reported to have killed some of the Taboro tribe. The expedition was successful, and several arrests were made; five prisoners were taken to Port Moresby. On the return of the party to Rigo they received the report of the massacre of the Ihovi people by the Demori tribe.

Mr. English draws attention to an evil which is growing amongst the native population. The young men are getting into the habit of marrying young girls for a time, getting back the trade they gave the parents, and casting the girl adrift, with lamentable consequences to her, and repeating the process as often as they are able. This would not have been possible under the old native customs, which had their own sanction for offences against the social good order of the community. Now that the laws of civilisation have been introduced and have not substituted anything for the old custom which in its rough-and-ready way afforded protection against offenders of this kind, there will be great danger that where custom is set at defiance and the law exacts no penalty, the respect for both, which is natural to the native, will be undermined, and ultimately destroyed. It is impossible to be too careful that this does not become the result of changing the old order of things in native communities without providing a proper substitute in the new. The subject is one which is receiving the attention of the Government.

Mekeo District (Central Division).

Mr. Giulianetti, the Government Agent of the Mekeo District, in his report, gives a short and interesting summary of his first expedition with Dr. Blayney, Resident Magistrate, to the Mafula and upper St. Joseph country. In consequence of the unfortunate occurrence of the arrest of the Chivua natives at Mafula, Mr. Giulianetti was directed to make a second trip there and explain matters, otherwise there would have been every probability of the good effects of the expedition being, to say the least of it, neutralised; and he left Hall Sound again on 13th November, taking with him the one prisoner who had failed to make his escape. They arrived at their destination on 25th. A number of natives were present to meet them, but the Chivua people were at first suspicious, as was not unnatural. The wife of the returned prisoner was in mourning for him; their meeting,

Mr. Giulianetti says, was singularly undemonstrative. He saw two of the men who had escaped from custody on the first expedition, and learnt that they had all got home but one, who fractured his arm in trying to get his handcuff off and had died of the injury. Mr. Giulianetti stayed ten days at Mafula, and was completely successful in establishing friendly relations with all the people. A chief of Chivua, "Baiginala," seems to have taken a prominent part in the proceedings. On the way back one of the constabulary became ill and was left a day behind in charge of two of his comrades who eventually turned up without him; on search being made no trace of him could be found, and the party returned without him to Hall Sound. This rendered a third trip to Mafula necessary, for rumours came that the man had been eaten there, which indeed proved to be the case. On Mr. Giulianetti's return to Mafula he met at first only the fighting men, and they evidently expected to be attacked. It turned out that the principal offender who had found the sick constable and killed and eaten him, was the same Chivua chief above mentioned. He, it is hardly necessary to say, was not present. A reward was at once offered for him but without success, and the Government Agent had to return after a few days' stay without having got him. Altogether Mafula has unfortunate associations connected with its first acquaintance with the Government.

Dr. Blayney in his report states that there are now 92 village constables, 31 of whom are chiefs in his district, and that every year shows increased efficiency, while blackmailing has become a thing of the past. They have themselves erected excellent quarters for the Magistrate and his police at Maopa, in the Aroma District.

Dr. Blayney at the end of his report gives a short account of the progress of the European-owned plantations in his district.

Eastern Division.

Mr. Moreton, the Resident Magistrate, in his report, gives accounts of various visits to different parts of his district. The most serious local occurrence during the year was the rising in the Trobriands and the overthrow of the old Chief Enamakala, his village being burned and food gardens pillaged and destroyed. A report was at once sent to the Magistrate at Samarai by the Rev. Mr. Fellows, of the Wesleyan Mission, and Mr. Moreton proceeded there immediately with a small force of constabulary. An ambushed attack was made on his party, but the rebels were put to flight with one volley, no lives were lost, and they at once sued for peace. They were told at once to restore the old chief, rebuild his villages, replant his gardens, and make other proper reparation for their misconduct; these they promised to faithfully carry out and did, the Magistrate taking six of the

sons of the principal among them as hostages; these lads were well taken care of at Samarai and instructed in the ways of the Government, and finally taken back by Mr. Moreton to their homes. Enamakala, however, never recovered the shock and died shortly after the ceremony of restoration of peace-making had been performed.

Finding a party of miners near Cape Nelson trying to find their way inland to the back of Collingwood Bay, Mr. Moreton very considerately went with them inland for four days to place them on good terms with the natives. No gold was found by them, but he says that the country is well worth prospecting. and that there is plenty of good land there unoccupied which can be made available for sale. A trip was also made to the village of Biridumudumu, at the back of Cape Vogel, to make some arrests for murders. He reports, "The country about this part would do well for cattle, open grass with thin belts of scrub, and plenty of water."

The magistrate mentions the death of two young boys who had been left by themselves with some uncooked food and a few boxes of matches on an uninhabited island by a Greek trader to collect turtle-shell, and were found dead a few days afterwards by some natives visiting the island. Steps have been taken which will prevent a recurrence of such a pitiable thing.

An expedition was made to the Paiwa people in Goodenough Bay, who for some time have been behaving in a disorderly way, committing murders, and sending defiant messages to the Government. As is commonly the case in such instances they did not wait for the magistrate and his little force, but disappeared the moment they heard he was coming. He was unable to secure the ringleaders, but has since had a further reckoning with them. He mentions a remarkable instance of forbearance on the part of his corporal, who, though a spear grazed his forehead, forbore to fire his rifle and secured his opponent.

Mr. Moreton also went with Captain Barton on a successful expedition to the country behind Fyfe Bay, Mullens Harbour, and Oranerie Bay, where they found a large tract of good agricultural land which he says could be easily opened up with a light railway.

The native population suffered very severely from want of food. The heavy gale in the previous year seriously diminished the food supply, added to which there was a bad drought in many parts of the coast. The Islands of the d'Entrecasteaux Group appear to have suffered the worst, and many of the natives who were starving were only too glad to be signed on as carriers for the goldfields. From the number of desertions, in many cases resulting in the runaways being killed and eaten by the savage tribes in whose country they were found, it seems that many of them repented of their bargain. The total number of

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labourers who engaged under contracts in the district during the period under report was 1,323. There was some trouble with the natives at the gold-diggings at the back of Milne Bay, who had been thieving from the miners, and threatened to resist the Government authority. This was promptly dealt with by Mr. Symons, the assistant magistrate, who arrested several of them, since which they have given no further trouble of any consequence. Samarai is improving. New buildings, public office extension, hotels, stores, a small hospital, a school for the children of Europeans under the management of the Anglican Mission all evidence the efforts of the community to supply these elementary wants of civilisation. The greatest obstacle of all to much extension at Samarai is that the island is much too small. It is, however, very difficult to find another suitable place for a township anywhere in the vicinity.

With regard to industries in his district Mr. Moreton does not give a very encouraging account. The gold return is apparently much less than in last year, but is is very difficult to tell what the real amount of gold taken out of the country is. Alluvial digging at Milne Bay has almost ceased, though there is a report of new finds there. Pearl-shell, copra, and rubber all show a considerable falling off. Black-lip shell, and bêche-de-mer kept about the same.

The average number of prisoners in the gaol at Samarai, mostly for minor local offences, was 82. The magistrate reports that the health of the prisoners was good, though there were six deaths from the prevailing epidemics of pneumonia and dysentery. Mr. Moreton also reports a severe epidemic of dysentery in the Trobriands. The introduction of whooping-cough from Cooktown to Samarai and its rapid and disastrous spread has been already mentioned.

A medical officer was appointed for the district, with his headquarters at Samarai, and a hospital has been started under a local committee, supported by private subscriptions, supplemented by an equivalent grant from the Government. The hospital is attended by the Government Medical Officer, the committee paying for his services a sum fixed with the approval of the Government.

The northern part of the Eastern District from Cape Vogel was this year transferred to the North-Eastern District. There are 41 village constables in the Eastern District.

Two small steamers—the "Adelaide," about 129 tons gross, belonging to Messrs. Clunn and Sons, and the "President," about 50 tons gross, belonging to Messrs. Whitten Bros.—have been running at various times between Cooktown, Samarai, Woodlark Island, Cape Nelson, and the Mambare, which has proved a very great convenience to the public. Port Moresby, the seat of the Government, having no means of regular communication

with Samarai, has no share in this benefit, but stores, &c., are now forwarded from Samarai to the other places at which the steamers may be calling.

South-Eastern Division.

The report of the Resident Magistrate, Mr. Campbell, shows that the district is as quiet as usual. He thinks the native population is at a standstill, and that this is due to the common practice of abortion amongst the younger married women, the husband being a consenting party. This is not a good sign for the future. The custom is an old one, and Mr. Campbell is hopeful that time will cure it. Many deaths occurred from whooping-cough and bronchitis. There were 501 natives under labour agreements. There are 21 village constables in the district. There was a decrease of serious crime. There were 41 prisoners on the gaol register during the year; their conduct and health were both excellent.

Owing to the increase of mining work at Woodlark Island an assistant magistrate and warden, Mr. Bramell, formerly Government Agent for Mekeo District, and latterly employed in the Treasury at Port Moresby, was appointed for Woodlark Island, thus freeing the resident magistrate for other work in his district.

Mining at Sudest has stopped; the "British New Guinea Proprietary Company" have closed their operations, and there are no Europeans engaged at alluvial mining now; the natives glean a little gold from the creeks. At Misima (St. Aignans) some 16 miners were working alluvial ground with poor result. *A reported discovery of copper awaits further investigation.*

Woodlark Island is the centre of the gold industry. 75 gold leases, including 745 acres, have been applied for, the total number of mining leases in the district, including Sudest and Misima, was 82, including 881 acres, but these last may be left out of account. The Warden's court dealt with 381 applications. The revenue of the district amounted to £1,514, £1,073 more than in the previous year, owing to the development of the gold industry at Woodlark Island. It is likely to still further increase next year, if the two larger companies erect their machinery.

The European population on 30th June was 113, of whom 76 were at Woodlark Island.

The quantities and values of the commercial products of the district were as follows:—

Product.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Copra	23 tons	1,150
Bêche-de-Mer	22 „	1,100
Pearl shell	44 „	400
Black-lipped shell	20 „	900
Turtle-shell...	800 lbs.	500
Total	—	£3,000

The district vessel "Murua," which is always kept in most beautiful order by Mr. Campbell, was supplied with new sails, and is in very good sea-going condition; she is constantly employed amongst the islands of the district. Mr. Campbell speaks of the good work done by the Wesleyan Mission under Mr. Williams at Panaieti; the church attendances have increased by 310, and the school attendances are also satisfactory, the average daily attendance at the five Mission schools in the district is 341. The work of the Mission has been hampered by the whooping-cough epidemic and by an unusual amount of fever amongst the teachers.

Northern Division.

Mr. Armit, the Resident Magistrate for the Northern Division, reports several substantial improvements at the Government Station, at Tamata. They have now 38 acres under cultivation, and could feed all the natives on the station, constabulary, and prisoners, on native food alone if nothing else was required. The natives on the river and in the neighbourhood of the Station are on very friendly terms with the whites and the Government. Many of them are returning to the Gira and Ope to settle again on the Mambare; they are cultivating large food gardens. Mr. Armit is of opinion that in spite of the unusual mortality this year from whooping-cough, the native population is on the increase. The natives on the Upper Ope have been troublesome and committing robberies on the carriers to the goldfields. The opening of the Yodda Valley Gold Field has brought an influx of prospectors and miners into the country lying at the foot of the main range between the upper waters of the Kumusi and Mambare. The natives of that part are described as the worst that have been met with; they are savage cannibals, and have found many victims amongst the runaway carriers. Mr. Armit made an expedition under great

difficulties there from Tamata, in the early part of the year, to explore the country and to try and establish friendly relations with the natives, and make the road safe against attacks on parties of prospectors who were making their way up from the Kumusi. He found most of the natives very hostile, and in several cases he had to fight, and altogether between 50 and 60 are reported to have been shot in various encounters. He describes the natives as being usually fierce fighters, throwing stones, and following up a spear rush with their stone tomahawks. They appear to be treacherous and repulsive. Mr. Armit has also given an interesting report on the country and its prospects as a goldfield.

It was evident that some Government authority was required nearer to the new field than Tamata, and Mr. A. Elliott, the assistant warden and European officer there, was sent to form a station on the Kumusi with a detachment of constabulary. The station has been established on the Upper Kumusi, and the Yodda Valley is periodically visited from it. The life on the river and at the field is most severe, the distances and difficulties of transport have made the cost of the barest necessaries almost prohibitive. Mr. Armit gives an interesting account of the gold-bearing possibilities, in which he has great confidence, of both the Albert Edward and the Yodda Valley fields, pointing out that for want of proper knowledge and appliances much most valuable gold-bearing country has either been passed over unnoticed or has not yet been touched. He strongly advocates the use of hydraulic sluicing. It is likely that the field will be much further developed during the coming year, and if the newly-proposed dredging industry is taken up it will give a great impetus to the district. The natives of the Albert Edward country appear to have been very friendly, but inclined to steal. The opening of the Yodda Valley has taken most of the miners from the Gira field, and caused a falling-off in the revenue from gold.

The wet season appears to have been the healthiest; during the dry period from April to June there was much sickness, several cases of what Mr. Armit takes for "blackwater" fever having occurred. It is difficult to say without professional medical opinion whether this is the true blackwater fever which is so fatal in South Africa, or an aggravated form of the ordinary malarial fever of this country, which is susceptible to medical treatment.

Great inconvenience, to say the least of it, is caused by the frequent desertion of carriers on the way to the fields. As has been stated many of these were driven away from their islands, especially Goodenough, by stress of starvation, and after the first relief of their want, when they found the work distasteful or too hard, they deserted in numbers, often occasioning heavy loss to their employers. Mr. Armit mentions one instance of

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at least 41 loads having been thrown into a river and lost. The natives on the Mambare at first used to bring back deserters and receive payment from the storekeepers, but Mr. Armit has come to the conclusion "that they now levy blackmail and let the boys go free." When the Lieutenant-Governor was at the station last, and this subject was discussed with the Europeans at Tamata township, he suggested the formation of a corps of "Road Constables" to act as escort to carriers, and to at once report, and, if possible, trace deserters. The presence of one or two constables would do much to check the carriers from, at any rate, looting or destroying their loads; the cost of the corps would be borne by the storekeepers, a trifling item in comparison with the value of the stores; but it does not appear that the matter ever went further. The European population of the district is stated to have averaged 100 persons during the year.

During the year the Anglican Mission opened a station at Ume Village, on the Mambare River, under the Rev. Mr. Hines, but his health giving way he had to leave, and his place was taken by the Rev. Mr. Copeland King, under whom considerable progress has been made and a school started. At a meeting of the Europeans at Tamata township it was decided to subscribe for a church there for English services, and a site in the Government reserve was offered to the Mission for the purposes of erecting a church and school. The district revenue from all sources was £225.

Western Division.

There is no district report for this year. There was no Resident Magistrate for the first half of the period, and Mr. English acted during the second half. The principal occurrence of interest was the expedition with the Government party to the Morehead, already referred to.

Mr. Hely, the Resident Magistrate for several years, who had been absent in Australia for nearly two years, was obliged to resign his office on account of continued ill-health.

An account* of a boat trip by Mr. R. Bruce, who resides at Gebava Island in the mouth of the Fly River, and Mr. Berne to the Baum and Betura Rivers which run into the Fly, is appended. Mr. Bruce gives an interesting account of their experiences with the natives of the Baum—who were hostile, and eventually turned them back—and with the "Bore." He mentions the eating of a white clay, scraped with a shell, and eaten as a relish with food by the natives of the Betura. He is of opinion that the Baum carries a larger population than any river on that side of the Gulf of Papua.

* Not printed.

ARMED NATIVE CONSTABULARY.

Captain A. W. Butterworth, the Commandant, went on leave to Australia in November, and while there was selected for a commission in the Queensland Contingent of Imperial Bushmen for the war in South Africa, where he is still serving. During his absence the force has been under the command of Captain F. R. Barton (late Royal West India Regiment) Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor.

The report of the Acting Commandant shows that there were 115 men on the roll (the full strength is at present 130) distributed in eight districts; 32 at head quarters, most of whom form the travelling contingent for the "Merrie England" on the visits of inspection about the Possession, 22 in the Northern District, 18 in the Western, 15 in the North-Eastern, 10 at Mekeo, and six in the Eastern, South-Eastern, and Rigo Districts, respectively.

The greater majority of the force is still composed of Western men, but men are now being recruited from all parts of the Possession. Captain Barton incidentally draws an interesting comparison between the Western and Eastern natives. The health of the men was on the whole good, some severe cases of pleurisy occurred among them, and, as usual, they seem to have more sickness at Mambare than anywhere. Some new arms were got on trial (Martini-Henry carbines). It has been decided, on the advice of the military authorities at home, to re-arm the force with Martini-Enfield carbines. The report contains a detailed statement of the various patrols made by the Commandant with the headquarter force during the year to different parts of the Possession.

GAOL.

The report of the head gaoler and overseer of works, Mr. McDonald, shows that the number of prisoners received at the head gaol at Port Moresby during the year was—males, 86; females, six; total, 92, which was 22 less than the previous year. Prisoners discharged—males, 51; females, four; total 55. Eleven prisoners were transferred to other district gaols. There were six deaths. Five prisoners escaped from working gangs, three of whom were recaptured, as well as three others who had escaped the previous year. The report contains a summary of the classification and treatment of prisoners under the prison regulations, and a description of their life when camping out with a road party. It is very often said that amongst natives, such as those of this Possession, no stigma attaches to a man from the fact that he is a prisoner, but this is very doubtful. It is true that in many outward ways no repugnance is shown to being in the company of a prisoner, and he usually receives

the same share of food, or other things, as any free man; he joins unrestrictedly in conversation, or even games; but, it is generally found that there is, nevertheless, a wide gulf between him and his free companions. Mr. McDonald describes very well how nothing will induce the free natives to work with prisoners, or even to camp with him, when he is out on the roads with them; but he remarks that no stigma rests on a prisoner who has been discharged; he is regarded as having purged his offence against the law. This is, of course, theoretically the same with white races, but there is, in their case, the offence against "society," of which the stigma always remains, and of which the offender is never purged; this is the real difference between the degree of intensity in the punishment of civilised and uncivilised men. The entire absolution after punishment is carried still further into practice here, for the prison has become a valuable training ground and source of qualification for Government employment, and that this is so, is in a great measure due to the administration of the head gaoler, who is given a deservedly free hand with his prisoners.

The punishments are very few; the power to award corporal punishment exists in name, but the punishment is never inflicted. The severest punishment is shot drill, and it is satisfactory to note that an offender never requires a second infliction of it.

A detailed list of works carried out by the prisoners is given in the report; amongst the most useful may be mentioned the erection of a large timber beacon at the entrance through the main reef, which was much wanted. It is, no doubt, very satisfactory from a moral point of view to be able to point to decreasing numbers of criminals, but in the practical carrying out of public works here the dearth of prison labour is becoming alarming.

LANDS AND SURVEYS.

The report of the Chief Government Surveyor appears for the first time in this Report.* At the time it was written the Department only consisted of the Chief, Mr. Russell, and one assistant surveyor, Mr. Wearne. A start had, however, been made, and at the present moment there are five surveyors with their assistants, a draughtsman surveyor, and a contract surveyor, in addition to the Chief Surveyor. This will, however, belong to next year's report; during the period now in question there were only two. Mr. Russell gives detailed returns of—

(*a*) The total areas granted in each division, exclusive of mission sites and mining leases. The total area granted to 30th June was 14,017 acres, of which 9,231 were in the Central, and 3,346 in the Eastern Districts.

* Not printed.

(*b*) Mission sites granted to 30th June, 1900—

Mission.	Number of Sites.	Acres.
Central, Eastern, and Western :—		
London Mission...	162	719
Central :—		
Sacred Heart Mission	61	695
Eastern and South-Eastern :—		
Wesleyan Mission	100	633
Eastern, North-Eastern, and Northern:—		
Anglican Mission	17	292
Total	340	2,339

(*c*) Survey work done during the year.

(*d*) Areas of land acquired by the Crown during the year, amounting to 370,457 acres (nearly 580 square miles), all of which, with the exception of 21,200 acres on the Oriomo River, in the Western Division, are situated in the Central Division.

(*e*) Total area of Crown land on 30th June, 1900—

—	Acres.
Central District	418,543
Eastern	1,945
South Eastern	1,126
North Eastern	Nil.
Northern	Nil.
Western	21,351
Total	442,965 (=692⅛ square miles.)

Two applications for large areas of land for agricultural development—in one case for 100,000 acres, and in the other for

200,000 acres—were received from well-represented Australian syndicates. As the areas exceeded in both cases 50,000 acres, which, under the arrangement made with the Premiers of the three contributing colonies, is the limit within which the Government of the Possession can deal in lands without reference to them, these applications were at once notified to them; and official intimation has since been received by this Government, to its great disappointment, of the intention of the Government of New South Wales to oppose both. As, however, the matter is not yet settled, further discussion of it is deferred.

MEDICAL.

The report of the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Blayney, also appears as a departmental report this year for the first time.* A Medical Department, as such, has been established, and at present consists of the Chief Medical Officer at Port Moresby and a medical officer at Samarai. An endeavour to secure two other medical officers in Australia was unsuccessful, but application has ben made for two to the Colonial Office, to which all the necessary details have been sent. Dr. Blayney reports that the health of the small European population at Port Moresby during the year was good; slight attacks of fever were common, but serious or severe cases are very rare. He speaks of the establishment of the hospital at Samarai as meeting a much-felt want, and instances where the entire absence of medical or nursing assistance at Port Moresby would have been of the most serious nature when dysentery broke out there while he was away in the western part of his district had it not been for the presence and skill of the Rev. Mr. Hunt, of the London Missionary Society Mission there. He draws attention to the unsatisfactory sanitation of the European township at port. Since the date of his report a Health Ordinance has been passed which will improve matters greatly in that direction.

With regard to the native population, Dr. Blayney states that the mortality from dysentery, pleurisy, and whooping-cough has been extremely high this year. The first disease is now endemic, and the necessity for trying to induce the natives to preserve their water supplies from contamination is dwelt on—almost as hopeless a task as getting them to follow out medical advice in cases of sickness. Yaws seem to be on the increase, but not of a severe type. Ringworm and itch have taken a firm hold, and are assisted in their spread by the uncleanly habits of the people, especially with regard to European clothes, which, as he remarks, are never too filthy to strut about in. The little three-roomed building known as the "female prison," which was erected in the days of the Protectorate, at a fabulous cost, as

* Not printed.

rumour goes, was removed from the harbour side of port to the gaol premises, and serves the purpose of a hospital and for the isolation of sick cases. It is hoped that provision may be made for the establishment of a small hospital at port before long.

The European population of Port Moresby on 30th June, 1900, was: Males, 21; females, 4; total, 25. Births, 1 (female), deaths, 1 (female), during the year.

A report on the health of the prisoners at Port Moresby by the head gaoler is attached to Dr. Blayney's report. A report from Dr. Vaughan, medical officer at Samarai, is also attached to that of the chief medical officer. No reference is made in either of the reports of the medical officers to the great danger the Possession was exposed to from its proximity to Australia during the spread of the plague there. But it is a subject which deserves mention, for had it reached either Cooktown or Thursday Island—and, as it made its way northwards as far as Cairns, the probability of its appearing at any time at either of those places seemed very great—it is difficult to see how we should have escaped its introduction here, especially by way of Thursday Island, as there is practically no effective control over the going and coming of the pearling boats manned by Japanese and natives amongst the islands of Torres Straits, which form a continuous chain from Thursday Island and Cape York to our western shores. It was in view of the great danger of its introduction by that way that it was considered of the greatest importance to get a medical officer for Daru, the port of entry in the west which must be kept open in any case, for to close it would mean to throw away the only chance of supervision over the pearling boats coming to our shores as they do now for wood, water, or provisions. With a medical officer at the other two ports it was possible to take proper and reasonable precautions such as detention in quarantine for medical inquiry, and, if necessary, examination, isolation, and treatment. In the other case the only thing the Customs officer at Daru could do would be to put everything from Queensland waters indiscriminately into quarantine for the longest period allowed by law. But the probability is that it would find its way ashore at a medically unguarded spot and begin its awful course before anything was known of it. It is not difficult to imagine what that would mean here; and it is but proper that the Possession should realise with great thankfulness what has so far been escaped. With the decrease and practical disappearance of the plague from Australia the immediate danger is passed, but constant watch must be kept for its reappearance. Three cases have been recently landed in quarantine at Thursday Island, in one of which death occurred, from a steamer from Glasgow. The disease is said to have been contracted at Batavia, where she called.

TRADE.

Imports.

The report and statistical returns furnished by the Treasurer show that the Customs dues collected during the year under report amounted to £10,821, or an increase of £937 over the previous year.

The total value of the imports was £72,286, as against £52,170, or an increase of £20,116; of this £8,050 was specie, of which none appears in the returns for the previous year, but, supposing that none was imported in that year, it still leaves an increase in other general imports of over £12,000 in favour of 1899-1900. All three ports of entry share in this increase, but, as is natural, by far the largest proportion belongs to Samarai, thanks to the gold industry, which is credited with £16,320 of it as against £3,131 at Port Moresby, the centre of the sandalwood trade, and £665 at Daru. Increases appear under all the principal items except hardware and timber, in which there was a slight temporary decrease. Drapery shows an increase of £820; foodstuffs, of £4,223; spirits, £675; trade tobacco, £786 (trade tobacco is the ordinary medium of payment to the native population); building material, £596; boats, £1,311; and miscellaneous, of £4,172.

The total value of imports of liquor was £4,697, and tobacco (exclusive of trade) £464. Trade tobacco amounted to nearly £5,000 in value.

Exports.

The total value of the exports was £56,167, as against £68,496 in the previous year, or a falling off of £12,329, but of this £12,069 is given as the falling off of gold alone.

It is very difficult to get at anything like a true figure of what the gold export is. There is no obligation to declare it, and miners are naturally secretive about what they are making out of any new place. Reliance has to be placed, for the purpose of these reports, on the return of gold imported into Cooktown from New Guinea, and that in a great measure only represents the gold paid to the storekeepers in New Guinea by the miners in payment of their accounts for provisions, &c., and does not include amounts taken over privately and disposed of in Australia. From information obtained through the courtesy of the Customs Department, the Royal Mint in Sydney, and the banks, for which a grateful acknowledgment is offered, the actual amount of gold imported from New Guinea during the year under report was valued at about £32,500. The number of miners on the Gira, Woodlark, and Milne Bay fields, collectively, was larger than in the previous year; but the block in the Woodlark surveys interfered considerably with the mining

there this year, and the movement to the Yodda Valley, as Mr. Armit points out in his report, reduced the number of working claims on the Gira field. The solution of the apparent anomaly in the increase in imports while the gold export so decreased is due to these causes, and it is probable that the balance will recover itself this year.

There was a serious falling off in almost every article of export except sandal-wood, for which there was an increased demand; it comes from the Central District.

Pearl-shell fell from £10,000 to £5,000. Black-lipped shell appears as an increase of £2,766, but it is not very clear from previous returns whether this is now given as a separate or new item formerly included in "Pearl-shell"; if so, the decrease in the latter will be proportionately reduced. Copra shows a decrease of £682, but this is due to the effects of the blow in the eastern part of the Possession in the previous year. With the large increase in the cocoa-nut planting by the natives in the east, and especially in Milne Bay, there should be a corresponding increase in the copra export in the future.

The rubber industry is at present languishing, and fell off by £457.

As Sir F. Winter said in the Report for last year, probably all the accessible country near the coast is worked out, and the trees destroyed in the process. There is, however, an enormous amount of good rubber-producing country waiting to be worked in a scientific and rational way. Until and unless it is treated so, it had better be left alone, and it is infinitely preferable to see a diminished export than an apparently flourishing trade being carried on at the expense of its capital sources and ultimate ruin. The total trade for the past six years shows a remarkable fluctuation, probably peculiar to a new gold country:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Increase.
	£	£	£	£
1894–95	28,367	16,215	44,582	—
1895–96	34,521	19,401	53,922	9,340
1896–97	51,391	44,345	95,757	41,815
1897–98	46,971	49,859	96,830	1,093
1898–99	52,170	68,496	120,666	23,836
1899–1900	72,286	56,167	128,453	7,787

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SHIPPING.

The total number of vessels (exclusive of Government vessels) that entered inwards from beyond the Possession was 112, having a tonnage of 20,733, against 92 of 19,583 tons in the year before. The outward clearances were 95 of 19,110 tons, against 81 of 19,191 tons. The total inward, outward, and coastwise vessels was 528 with 13,221 tons, against 568 with 15,886 tons. All the shipping was British.

POSTAL.

The Post Office statistics show an increase in letters despatched of 3,306, and of newspapers received 4,955. Letters received show a decrease of 529.

It is much to be desired that the Possession should now have postage stamps of its own, and the proposal has received the approval of the Governor of Queensland. An order has been sent to England for a set of stamps, and it is hoped that they will be issued some time in the course of the next year.

It will also be a source of satisfaction to the public when the Australian colonies, and consequently the Possession, join the universal penny postage system. They are the only part now of the British Empire which has not done so.

FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The total estimated Revenue was £12,463; the actual receipts were £13,834, or an excess over the estimate of £1,373, and £2,152 over the receipts for 1898-99. Customs and Warehouse Dues exceeded the estimate by £450, and the receipts of the previous year by £930. Judicial Fines and Fees were £55 over the estimate. Land Sales and Leases fell £275 below the estimate. Liquor Licenses were £34 above the estimate. Fishing Licenses were £63, and Timber Licenses £20 above the estimate. Goldfield receipts were £953 over the estimate, and £1,436 over the previous year. Of the total £1,753, £1,552 were collected in the South-Eastern District, almost all of which was from the new Woodlark field. Native Labour Fees, a new item under the "Native Labour Ordinance of 1899," appears

for the first time in the Revenue return. As the Ordinance only came into operation during the year, it did not appear on the Estimates. Miscellaneous receipts were £61 in excess of the estimate.

Expenditure.

The total estimated Expenditure was £20,264, and the actual Expenditure was £21,301, or about £1,037 more than the estimate, principally due to expenses in connection with Government Store.

A considerable saving appears under General Travelling Allowances of £576, but there was an excess of expenditure under General Transport of £254; a good many items which used to be charged to the first are now charged to the latter of these votes.

Armed Native Constabulary shows a saving of £380 and Gaols of £241; in both cases the saving was in the vote for rations, while in other items in the Constabulary there was an excess; the Constabulary were not up to their full strength (130), and the number of prisoners was under that provided for. Public Works Extraordinary shows a saving of £721, but this is due to several of the works not having been taken in hand in the year under report; they will come into the next one. Miscellaneous shows an excess of £200. Amongst the overdrawn items is General Transport, £254, alluded to above; Printing and Stationery, £121; Land Purchases, £117. Against these there was a saving of £188 on the vote for Chiefs and Village Constables. An item of £3,696 appears in the return for which there is no vote on the Estimates. This amount represents the value of supplies in the Government Store available for issue at the end of the financial year. It is always necessary to keep a large balance on hand in case of any emergency, and while this amount will be available for the next year there was an amount of £1,970 left over from the previous year which has been consumed during the year under report. A change has been made in the method of accounting for stores. It was the practice to distribute the whole cost of stores purchased during the year amongst the several departments at the end of the year, as their unexpended votes might allow. This, however convenient, afforded no real check on the expenditure of any department; the excesses of one were covered by the savings of another. A proper system has now been introduced, each department being debited at the time with the cost of its supplies on its own requisitions. A Stores Committee has also been appointed from among the heads of the departments, which supervises requisitions and orders for stores.

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The following is a comparison of the Revenue and Expenditure from 1890 to 1900, the 30th June in each case. The "Merrie England" is included at the average, £7,000 per annum:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure (General).	"Merrie England."	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1890	3,016	14,975		21,975
1891	2,674	15,000		22,000
1892	4,784	15,000		22,000
1893	4,605	15,000		22,000
1894	5,867	15,000		22,000
1895	5,110	15,000	7,000	22,000
1896	6,548	15,000		22,000
1897	10,664	16,229		23,229
1898	10,281	14,991		21,991
1899	11,683	15,583		22,583
1900	13,834	21,301		28,301

While the revenue has increased by nearly £11,000, the Expenditure has increased by £4,340.

The arrangement by which the three colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland contributed £5,000 a year each for ten years to the administration of British New Guinea terminated in 1898, and the difference between the Revenue and Expenditure is now being met from the "Accumulated Revenue Fund," which, on 30th June, 1898, amounted to about £20,000, and was calculated to last for about eighteen months longer, after which temporary arrangements would be necessary, pending the establishment of the Federal Government of Australia, when the future financial administration of the Possession will be settled.

"Merrie England."

The annual appropriation for the upkeep of the "Merrie England" and the two steam launches remain the same, £7,000. The actual expenditure on her account was £7,933, against which the refunds for victualling Government officers or private persons (the passage money paid by private persons who occasionally

travel in her by permission when there is no other opportunity for them is also included), amounting to £633, is credited, leaving a net expenditure of £7,300, or £300 in excess of the vote. This, however, is reduced by a credit balance of £161 in hand from the previous year, leaving the net excess £139, with which her account will stand debited for 1900-01. Part of this is really accounted for, as will be seen, by the inclusion of a premium of insurance for part of the previous year. The three items on which there is an excess over estimate are—

—	Estimate.	Expenditure.	Excess.
	£	£	£
Victualling	1,000	1,238	238
Deck and engine-room stores ...	500	715	215
Insurance	340	577	237
Total excesses			690
Less savings on other items			390
Total net excess as above			300

The gross expenditure for victualling in the previous year was £1,594, against which there were refund credits of £524, leaving a net expenditure under this head of £1,070, or £175 less than in the year under report; but there was more travelling done in her in the latter than in the previous year, and it is somewhat doubtful whether the charge of 4*s.* 6*d.* per day for saloon passengers, whether on Government or private account, is sufficient to cover the cost of victualling, especially since the heavy increase in the cost of tinned meats, &c.

Deck and engine-room stores are items which also vary with the amount of work the vessel does.

Insurance covered the premiums on the "Merrie England" for eighteen months, owing to a readjustment of the ship's financial year to correspond with that of the Possession, and £37 for insurance on the launch "Ruby" for six months while she was at work in the west.

The total number of miles run by the ship was 16,021, her record total; the coal consumption was 660 tons 10 cwt., which was divided as follows:—

	Tons.	Cwt.	
Ship (engines)	608	15	(=26·3 knots run per ton of coal consumed)
Steam launches	31	0	
Galley Cooking	20	15	
Total	660	10	

The ship was continually running while she was in the Possession; her longest stay at anchor was while she was waiting at Dauan Island for seventeen days during the expedition to the Morehead with the "Ruby."

The report* of her survey at Brisbane is appended. Her advancing years necessitate very careful overhauling and repairing, but she will continue to do her work for some time to come. It is satisfactory to know that though in unsurveyed waters she has occasionally been aground she has again not sustained any damage.

OFFICIAL STAFF.

His Honour Mr. F. P. Winter, C.M.G., Chief Judicial Officer and Deputy Administrator, received the honour of knighthood.

The Hon. C. G. Murray was appointed to the new clerkship in the Government Secretary's Office. He has since been appointed acting resident magistrate for the Western Division, and his place in the Government Secretary's Office taken by Mr. A. Walker.

Mr. J. T. Bensted was transferred from the "Merrie England" to be clerk in the Government Store.

Mr. A. H. Jiear, of the Queensland Customs, was appointed Sub-Collector of Customs at Daru.

Mr. B. Hely, for many years resident magistrate for the Western Division, a member of the Executive Council, and one of the oldest officers of the Possession, resigned his appointment from continued ill-health, and is now employed in the Queensland Government service.

* Not reprinted.

Mr. A. English, Government agent of the Rigo District, was appointed acting resident magistrate for the Western Division for the latter part of the year, and was ultimately relieved by Mr. Murray.

Mr. C. A. W. Monckton was appointed resident magistrate for the new North-Eastern Division.

Mr. B. W. Bramell was transferred from the Treasury and appointed warden and assistant magistrate at Woodlark Island, South-Eastern Division, and acted as resident magistrate for the Northern Division while Mr. Armit was on leave.

Captain Butterworth, commandant of the Armed Native Constabulary, was appointed, while on leave in Australia, to the Queensland Contingent of the Imperial Bushmen for service in the Transvaal; and Captain F. R. Barton, Private Secretary, was appointed acting commandant.

Mr. F. Wearne, C.E., of Queensland, was appointed Assistant Government Surveyor.

Mr. C. Vaughan (formerly of the Bengal Medical Staff) was appointed medical officer at Samarai, for the eastern part of the Possession, provisionally on his completing his medical qualifications for registration in the United Kingdom or Australia.

Mr. H. H. Stuart Russell, C.E., Chief Government Surveyor, was appointed a member of the Executive Council of the Possession.

Mr. W. H. Gors was re-appointed a member of the Legislative Council of the Possession, and while absent on leave his place was filled by the temporary appointment of Mr. Stuart Russell.

The general health of the staff was good.

Mission Work.

It is to be regretted that there is not immediately available the information necessary to enable a short account to be given of the progress of the work of the several mission societies in the Possession. In future they will be asked, if they like, to send in a short report which will be incorporated with the annual reports.

The London Mission Societies have received two additions to their staff from England in the Rev. C. Y. Tomkins, to assist the Rev. Mr. Chalmers in the West, and Torres Straits, and the Rev. E. B. Riley, as assistant to the Rev. Dr. Lawes at Vatorata. The Rev. Mr. Abel and Mrs. Abel went on leave to England, Mr. F. W. Walker taking charge of their training school at Kwato till they return.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1899-1900.

The girl students at Kwato had the advantage of Mrs. Fletcher, of the Wesleyan Mission at Goodenough Island, staying with them for some months.

The Rev. Mr. Schlenker has taken the first step in the establishment of the new inland mission to the interior of the Kemp Welsh District, which has been called the "Mt. Douglas Mission," and a station has been selected on the lower slopes of the mountain of that name, and two teachers have been placed there. On Mr. Schlenker's return from Australia early next year he is going to reside there himself. This will be of considerable importance to the Government, as it will open up and settle a large, hitherto little visited tract of country. The Rev. Mr. Cribb had to retire from work owing to ill-health; he has since been succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Saville at Mailu, and another new recruit for the Society, both also from England, the Rev. C. F. Rich, has taken Mr. Schlenker's place at Fife Bay.

The Wesleyan Mission have lost the Rev. Mr. Field, who was moved from Tube-Tube, in the Engineer Group, to Fergusson Island, but who has had to resign from ill-health.

The Anglican Mission have added the Rev. Mr. Furneau and some ladies to their staff, and have lost the Rev. Mr. Hines, who had to leave from ill-health. They have established a station on the Mambare, and a school for the children of Europeans at Samarai. The diocese of the Bishop has been constituted as a separate diocese by the Australian Synod.

The Sacred Heart Mission have had several additions to their staff, which will enable them to extend their operations into the interior of the St. Joseph District. The Rev. Father Alain de Boismenu was appointed Bishop-Coadjutor, and proceeded to Europe to be consecrated.

METEOROLOGICAL.

It is to be regretted that there is not reliable information or systematic records of the rainfall at the several stations. The Government Secretary has furnished a report on the subject and a summary of the records taken at Port Moresby.

The year was an exceptionally dry one, the total rainfall being a fraction under 34 inches, of which a little over 20 inches fell in the four months from November to February, and 10 inches in April and May, leaving less than 3 inches for the remaining five months. Application has been made to the Royal Meteorological Society in England for the loan of some sets of proper instruments, but it is doubtful if the request can be granted.

There was more rain in the Eastern Districts, but the year throughout has been disastrously dry for the natives, and much suffering has been and is the result.

G. R. LE HUNTE.

Government House,
Port Moresby,
3rd January, 1901.

P.S.—Since writing the above a report on the Western Division has been received from Mr. A. English for the six months during which he was acting as Resident Magistrate there.

The report contains some interesting information on the labour trade in the district, it being the principal recruiting ground in the Possession. The subject of the better supervision of those employed on the pearling vessels in the waters of Torres Straits requires attention, and will receive the close attention of the Government.

There was a considerable increase in the local trade of the district. The Customs collections were £230 more than in the previous year, and the value of the imports was £1,644, an increase of £662; while the value of the exports—copra, pearl-shell, black-lipped shell, bêche-de-mer, and peanuts—increased by £1,223.

G. R. LE HUNTE.

4th January, 1901.

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